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GAZETTEER OF THE CENTRAL PROVINCES.

PART I. { BAITOOL.
BELASPORE.
BHUNDARA.

546

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PREFACE.

It has long seemed to the Chief Commissioner that a Gazetteer is needed for the Central Provinces. None will dispute that for the good management of districts, local knowledge is necessary. The more detailed and intimate such knowledge is, the better. This remark, however general may be its application, is particularly applicable to Provinces like these, where the areas are widespread ; where the tribes and circumstances are diverse ; where the component parts are separated from each other by mountain barriers or other physical obstacles ; where information is often difficult of acquisition by reason of the remoteness of localities ; and where the annals of the country, though to some extent existing, are for the most part inaccessible to the majority of our countrymen.

When such knowledge is merely acquired by individuals, it is apt to be of a fugitive character, owing to those frequent changes which are inevitable in Indian administration. It constantly happens that when an officer has, by travelling about, and by communicating with the people, learnt very much regarding his district, he is obliged by ill health, or by the requirements of the service, or by other reasons, to leave, and then he carries all his knowledge away with him, his successor having to study everything *ab initio*.

Thus it becomes of importance that the mixed by all who of local interest and value should be record such record should have the means of knowing them ; and that it to, and within the be embodied in an abiding shape, patent concerned to ascertain reach of all, so that everyone who is concerned of information these things may have the ordinary resources ready to hand.

Therefore it was in 1864 resolved to collect materials for a Gazetteer. With this view all Officers set

Provinces were furnished with a sketch of the information required. In due course every officer transmitted the data for his district. Advantage was also taken of the Settlement Department being in operation to obtain therefrom all the facts bearing on the subjects in question. Thus in the course of two years a mass of information in manuscript was accumulated. All the gentlemen consulted gave full replies to the references made; of course, out of many reports, some will be better than others, and it is well that the best should be mentioned here, which were furnished by—

Mr. M. Low, Deputy Commissioner of Nagpore.

Captain C. B. Lucie Smith, Deputy Commissioner of Chanda.

Mr. C. Elliott, Settlement Officer of Hoshungabad.

Captain Newmarch, Deputy Commissioner of Bhundara.

Mr. H. Read, Deputy Commissioner of Dumoh.

Captain Glasfurd, Deputy Commissioner of Upper Godavery.

Lieut.-Colonel Maclean, Deputy Commissioner of Saugor.

Then these multifarious reports had to be examined, condensed, compiled, and brought out in an uniform and readable shape. The task of compilation was entrusted mainly to the following gentlemen who were good enough to undertake it, namely Mr. A. C. Lyall, Civil Service, Major Dods, Director of Public Instruction, Mr. C. Browning M. A. Inspector of Schools. They arranged the facts according to the order prescribed, which is as follows. The information is given for the various Districts or Zillahs, arranged in alphabetical order. For each District:—first the general description of the country, its topography, its physical aspect and features, its products spontaneous and agricultural, are to be entered: then its past history from the earliest known times to the latest dates; then the statistics, of its population, and the tribes and castes comprised therein, of its revenue; and of its trade and manufactures. If the head-

quarter Station be a place of size and note, a description of it is inserted. After that all the cities, towns, principal villages, and other places of mark, in the district, are noticed in alphabetical order. The notice of each place contains particulars of the inhabitants, the fabrics, the antiquities, and any objects of usefulness and interest which there may be.

The work thus brought out, though probably as complete as it can be made at the present time, is yet avowedly imperfect; and is in some respects only preliminary. The information generally may from year to year be supplemented by further details, and on numerous points will doubtless be found susceptible of emendation. The statistics especially will constantly be open to enlargement and rectification. Still a broad foundation for future superstructure has at least been raised. Our Officers have at all events been stimulated to enquire in order to make this commencement, and their intelligent interest in their charge and their work will have assuredly been heightened thereby. They will be farther incited in the same direction in order to add to what has now been begun.

Nor will such efforts it is hoped be confined to Europeans. The numberless educated Natives now springing up all over these Provinces will surely be able and willing to contribute to the stock of materials for a Gazetteer which aims at describing the country which is either the land of their birth or else the land of their service and residence.

Mr. Temple now directs the issue of this publication in the trust that it may be of some advantage both to those now serving, and to those who may hereafter join the service, and thus may prove of some use to those concerned in the welfare of the Central Provinces.

By order of the Chief Commissioner,

C. BERNARD,

Secretary.

NAGPORE:
The 1st March 1867. }



THE
CENTRAL PROVINCES GAZETTEER.

BAITOOL.

THE district of Baitool lies entirely in the hill country ; it comprises the westernmost section of that portion of the Sautpoora Range which belongs to the Central Provinces. Beyond its western border the Berar country begins : on the north it is bounded along its whole length by the Hoshungabad District and the Mukrai Territory; on the east by Chindwara ; while of its southern border, the eastern half touches the Nagpore District, and the western half runs with Berar. It is situated between the 21st and 22nd parallel of north latitude, and the 77th and 78th of east longitude; it has a mean elevation above the sea of about 2,000 feet, though some points, of course, are much higher, reaching to little short of 3,700 feet above the sea level. It is essentially a high land tract, but possessing every variety of external feature—from the valley smiling with corn and sugarcane, to the frowning precipice and mountain torrent brawling through the primeval forest. It divides itself naturally into several distinct portions, differing both in outward appearance, character of soil, and geological formation.

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General de-
scription.

The chief town of Baitool is centrically situated, and lies in a level basin of rich soil, traversed by the perennial streams of the Machna and Sampna, and shut in by abrupt lines of stony hills on all sides; but the west, where it is bounded by the deep valley of the Taptee, clothed on either side with dense jungle. This tract is almost entirely under cultivation, and is studded with numerous and thriving village communities. To the south lies an extensive rolling plateau of basaltic formation, having the sacred town of Mooltye, and the springs of the river Taptee as its highest point, extending over the whole of the southern face of the district, and finally merging into the wild and broken line of ghats which lead down to the lower country of the plains. This part of the district consists of a succession of stony ridges of trap rock, enclosing valleys or basins of fertile soil of very varying extent and capabilities, and to which the cultivation is mostly confined, except where the shallow soil on the tops of the hills admits of being turned to account. The whole of the culturable soil has now been taken up ; there are but few trees ; and the general aspect is bare and uninviting.

To the north of Baitool there lies a tract of poor country, thinly inhabited, and sparsely cultivated, terminating in the main chain of the Sautpoora Hills where a considerable fall takes place in the general level of the country. North again lies an irregular plain

The geology of this district is very remarkable. The appended extracts, from a description* by Lieutenant Finnis, of the formation met with on the route between Nagpore and Hoshungabad will convey some knowledge of the main characteristics of the regions through which he took his section. The whole of the country south of the Machna forms the north-western corner of that great basaltic area, which includes all the low countries west of Nagpore through Berar:—

"The formations appear to be distinctly divided into five principal divisions.

"The first division includes the tract of country lying between Nagpore and Baitool, to the south bank of the Machna River.

"An unvaried formation of trap occurs during the whole of this distance, and the face of the country is covered with round wacken boulders.

"The second division comprises the space within the southern and northern ghats on the Machna.

"This river, at Baitool, is running to the west, and after winding round some hills it recrosses the road, running east to join the Tawah River at Shahpoor. The distance is about 27 miles: the intermediate country hilly.

"On the north bank of the Machna, at Baitool, trap no longer appears: it is followed by strata of quartz and mica schist traversing the plain up to the hills north of the cantonments. These are of quartz, brittle, very highly stratified, and vertically disposed; the layers seldom exceed 11 inches in thickness.

"The third division includes the country between the Machna River and the nullah, one and a half mile south of Keeslah; and is bounded on the west by the small range of Jamgurh Hills, which is a ramification from the Mahadeo Hills after they change their direction to the south-west.

"After passing the Machna at Shahpoor all traces of granite are lost, and the sandstones become very general. The sandstone strata extend, with very little interruption, from Shahpoor to Keeslah, and to the foot of the Bhoramurh and Jamgurh Hills, frequently showing themselves above the alluvial soil, and traversed occasionally by veins of quartz and trap as at a nullah half way between Shahpoor and the Bhora Nuddee, where a trap vein, about 12 yards wide, passes through the sandstone from a south-east direction. It forms the bed of the nullah, and can be traced for a considerable distance.

"About four miles from the Machna River, and three miles up the Bhora Nuddee, are the seams of coal, displayed on both banks of the stream under a thick bed of sandstone. All the small nullahs run over sandstone beds. After crossing the Bhora Nuddee, trap again immediately occurs, and continues for a mile and a half to the base of a hill of sandstone. The trap is traversed by a vein of calcareous spar, about six inches wide. No trap appears further north; and

*Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, Vol. III., page 71.

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"after crossing the sandstone hills, the road passes over a black alluvial soil, which continues to the river north of Keeslah; and the only rock met with is sandstone grit."

Coal.

The several out-crops of coal in this district are mentioned in the Memoirs of the Geological Survey of India, Vol. II, Part II, and will be found epitomized in Appendix A of that volume, pages 268 and 270 (see Annexure F). Since Mr. Medlicott reported on them, they have been again recently visited by Mr. Blandford, of the Geological Survey. No new discovery has been made in this district; and the six known out-crops will be found minutely described by Mr. Blandford. The Rawundeo section is the most important, exposing one or two seams of 4 feet thickness each; all the others being less than that, and not affording so promising a field for mining operations.

Forests.

The forests are very extensive: the whole uncleared region occupies some 700 square miles. Five of the best timber-bearing tracts have been reserved by the Government; they contain a vast quantity of young Teak, with some fine trees; some magnificent Saj (*Pentaptera Tomentosa*) and Kowah (*Pentaptera Arjuna*), with Sheeshum, Salee, and other good timber trees. The unreserved wastes have been divided into lots of 3,000 acres, for sale or grant on clearance leases; the woods are under the management of the district authorities, and are guarded by the forest law.

History.

At some period after the time of the Gond Rajahs of Kherlah, whose dynasty is known to have ruled this tract of country from the old Government, which still remains, Baitool was subject to Pandoo Gowlee, who was Rajah of Deogurh in the Chindwara District. After Pandoo Gowlee there is nothing known until the time of Bukt Boolund, Rajah, who reigned towards the end of the seventeenth century. He visited Aurungzebe's Court at Delhi, and became a convert to Islam. It is hard to guess how far westward along the hills his power extended. There was certainly a hill Rajah at Saoleegurh during the latter part of Aurungzebe's reign, for his marauding inroads into the Nerbudda Valley are mentioned in a letter of Newab Jelal Khan, the Moghul Soubahdar at Hindia. Bukt Boolund was succeeded by Chand Sooltan, who had two sons—the elder, Booran Shah, and the second, Akbur Shah. When Chand Sooltan died, these two boys were very young, so Walee Shah, an illegitimate son of Chand Sooltan, put them in prison and took possession of the throne himself. The boys' mother then applied to Rugojee, the Mahratta ruler of Berar, for assistance; he came with an army, killed Walee Shah, released the boys, and put them both on the throne on their promising to pay him half the revenue of their kingdom.

In 1147 Fusly, Rugojee left Berar and went to Poona Sattara, but was paid half the revenue of the Deogurh kingdom, according to agreement, until 1150 Fusly.

In 1151, Booran Shah and Akbur Shah quarrelled; the Gonds rose in rebellion, and plundered the whole country for a whole year, but were put down by Rugojee 1st, who supported Akbur Shah and expelled Booran Shah. Soon after, he removed Akbur Shah to Nagpore; and though the country above the ghats was for some time left under

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the nominal authority of the Gond Rajah, yet the eastern part at any rate was virtually annexed to the kingdom of the Bhouslas. But the Saoleegurh Rajah seems to have maintained his independence up to 1760, and to have been swept away by the Mahratta conquests sometime before 1775 A.D. In 1818 A.D., after the defeat and flight of Appa Sahib, this district formed part of the territory ceded to the British for payment of the contingent; and by the Treaty of 1826, it was formally incorporated with the British possessions. Detachments of British troops were stationed at Mooltye, Baitool, and Shahpoor in 1818, in order to cut off Appa Sahib's escape westward from Puchmurrree; but he passed the line, and got off. A military force was quartered at Baitool until June 1862.

Agricultural Classes, &c. Of the agricultural community the prevalent caste is the Mahratta Koonbees. They occupy the southern parts of the district, and are supposed to have originally emigrated from Nagpore and Berar. Distinct from them are the Purdesee Koormees, a race from upper India speaking the Hindustanee language; these are confined to the Khas Baitool Talook, whither they immigrated along with the grandfather of the present half proprietor of Baitool, Taizee Singh.

Besides the Purdesee Koormees above noticed, there are the Daislee, or Dholewar Koonbees, who also speak the Hindustanee language. These are chiefly confined to a few villages of the small Talook of Raneepoor.

Next to the Koonbees in point of numbers come the Bhoyurs, a race said to have come originally from upper India; they are hardworking and industrious cultivators, thoroughly alive to the advantages of irrigation, and generally expending much labor and capital in the sinking of wells. They are unfortunately much addicted to drink, which is said to have led many of them into debt and difficulties. They are found chiefly in the Mooltye Pergunnah.

Rajpoots are found in the Mooltye Pergunnah in the villages adjoining the Chindwara District, and also in some few of the villages of the Atnair Pergunnah in the south. Their numbers are very inconsiderable.

The most skilful cultivators are the Malees; a sprinkling of these is to be found throughout the whole of the open parts of the district.

Kirars are the next in importance of the agricultural community, and are about equal in numbers to the Malees; similarly they are distributed more or less all over the district; as regards social status, they are inferior to the above mentioned castes, who maintain a general feeling of social equality, though, of course, keeping completely apart in all ceremonial observances. They are hardworking and industrious; but the majority of them are poor and not very good cultivators.

The other classes, besides the agriculturists proper, are Tales (Oilsellers) and Kuhars (Distillers), Mussulmans, and Brahmins—these two last live chiefly in the larger villages; Gowlees, very ancient pastoral inhabitants of these upland regions, who live by flocks and herds, and by very scanty tillage; a low caste Hindoo tribe called Buggars; Garungarees, whose profession it is to exert hail, and the

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usual miscellaneous society of artizans, shopkeepers, and religious sectarians fills up the number of the population. The hill tribes of Gonds and Korkoos demand separate notice, though it must necessarily be short.

Gonds.

The Gonds are found in all the wild and jungle villages, and also in some of the more open ones, where they live chiefly by manual labor in the fields, following the plough or tending cattle.

The Korkoos are almost entirely confined to a few talooks of the Saoleegurh Pergunnah, which belong to a Korkoo proprietor, Gaiuda Patel. Some of the Korkoos are very industrious in the cultivation of rice, but the majority of them are very similar to the Gonds, in character and disposition. These latter have no idea, and no wish, beyond living from hand to mouth, taking no thought for the morrow, and, consequently, obliged to put up with little food and scanty clothing. Their favourite mode of livelihood is by cutting grass and firewood, which they sell in the nearest market; but they also carry on a little agriculture, chiefly that method termed Dhya.

These two tribes are clearly distinct one from the other. The Gonds have a religion and language of their own. They are subdivided into about twenty tribes, and they count twelve and a half religious sects, the separating characteristic being the number of gods worshiped by each. Seven is the number most usually adored; the lowest caste of all worships any number of gods, and indeed anything, having been left out (according to popular tradition) when the formal distribution of deities to each sect originally took place.

Births and marriages are celebrated by certain curious and peculiar customs: a suitor will serve for his wife during a stated number of years after the manner of Jacob. As a rule, they bury their dead, and sometimes kill a cow over the grave; but the more prosperous families now occasionally burn their dead according to the custom of the Hindoos, whose ancient and exclusive rites are invariably imitated by the outcast tribes as they rise in the scale of civilization. There is some tendency to suppose for the Gonds a Scythian origin,—to view them as the stranded waif of some of the Scythian immigrations, which undoubtedly penetrated very far into India at a period antecedent to the Christian era. The language has certainly some intermixture with Tamil, but this may have been subsequently acquired.

Korkoos.

The religion of the Korkoos, or Mowarees, is essentially different from that of the Gonds: it is very much more imitative of Hinduism. They worship the Hindu Mahadeo, the Sun, and Doola Deo. They will not touch cow's flesh; they will neither eat nor drink with the Gonds; and in the Baitool District they will not smoke. They worship their ancestors, as do also the Gonds; they have no priesthood, by class or profession; but their ceremonies are performed by the elders of the family. Their ceremonies at births and marriages differ from those of the Gonds, except in the matter of drinking bouts, which are religiously held on such occasions in either tribe. The Irish practice of waking the dead, or something like it, is also common to the funeral rites of Gonds and Korkoos. The latter sometimes bury and some-

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times burn; burial being probably the more ancient custom, as in every nation.

The Korkoo language has never been scientifically examined: it is said to have some affinity with the Bengalee and Ooryah; it has no connection whatever with the Gondee, although the habits of life of the two tribes are much the same, and in personal appearance they are not unlike each other.

Tenures.

Under the old Mahratta Government each village had its Patel, or head man, who collected the rents from the tenants, and paid them in to the Government treasuries, subtracting his authorized percentage. He had also certain powers to decide criminal charges, and was the general arbiter of village disputes. As long as these duties were satisfactorily performed, the office remained in the family, and thus became very frequently hereditary. But the exactions of the Mahratta Government in its wars at the beginning of this century drove out the race of Watundar, or hereditary Patels, and brought in a swarm of speculating farmers, who took the villages at rack rents, and who never lasted long. The farms were continually changing hands: one man got hold of several villages, and the old Patel merged into the modern Malgozar. This state of affairs seems to have lasted up to 1837, when a light settlement for the long period of twenty years enabled those who then possessed the estates to hold on and prosper; and it is on these men, or their descendants, that the settlement just completed has finally conferred proprietary right. The present proprietors have full liberty to dispose as they will of their land, subject only to the payment, by the possessor, of the Government revenue and to the recognition of such tenant-right as has been recorded. Many of the cultivators have certain rights of occupancy, and of holding at fixed rents under certain conditions. All such claims have been enquired into and determined according to law and custom.

Agriculture.

The principal dry staple of the district accrues from the spring harvest of wheat and pulses; more than three-fourths of the open lands are devoted to these crops. The seed is sown in October, no manure is used, and the fields are very rarely irrigated; the grain ripens early in the spring. The autumn harvest is important only in the hill villages. Cotton is raised, but its cultivation is not understood; also jowaree, a little rice, kootkee (an inferior rice), kodan (rye), and other poor grains. The Dhya system of cultivation is widely practised by the hill tribes. A new piece of ground, generally on a hill slope or edge of a stream, is selected and cleared of all jungle. The surface is then covered over with logs of wood of varying size, and these again with smaller brushwood. This work goes on during the hot weather to let the new cut wood get properly dry; just before the rains, the wood is set fire to and thoroughly burned to the ground, and after the first fall of rain the seed is scattered among the ashes; when the ground is steep, it is generally thrown in a lump along the top of the plot, and is left to be washed to its place by the rains.

The sugarcane does very well in Baitool,—the Otaheite cane was introduced many years ago by Colonel Sleeman; but the common plant of the country is more extensively grown. It is planted in January

and ripens in December.*

Baitool.

Opium cultivation is carried on chiefly in the Mooltye Pergun-nah. The sowing usually begins in November; in February the plant flowers, and the pods are ripe about March. The juice extracted is exported in its raw state by the merchants, who buy it up and send it to Indore or elsewhere for manufacture. The area under cultivation is reckoned at 2,400 acres, which are said to give an outturn of 1,800 maunds of 80lbs. weight.

The weight in ordinary use for retail dealings is the imperial seer of 80 rupees weight, or 80 tolahs.

Weights and Measures.

The standard dry measure is a "Palee," containing 75·40 cubic inches. It is a cylinder, made of wood or metal.

The English yard measure of 3 feet has been introduced.

This district is divided for revenue purposes into two tehsilee—Mooltye and Baitool, and for police purposes into six station circles—of Mooltye, Baitool, Atnair, Shahpoor, Saoleegurh or Chicholee, and Doonawa,—and twenty outposts. Mooltye and Doonawa are within the Mooltye Tehslee, and the other four in the Baitool Tehslee. The Baitool District yields a land revenue of 1,84,438 rupees, 13 annas, and 9 pies. The Imperial Customs Line runs right through the western portion of the district from north to south.†

Administrative Subdivisions.

The following are the chief towns in this district:—

Principal Towns:
Budnoor.

Budnoor, which is the head-quarters of the district administration, contains, besides the European houses, two bazars, in which there are 603 houses. The largest, the Kotee Bazar, has 441 houses, with a population of 1,835 souls. The Sudder Bazar contains 162 houses, with a population of about 689 souls.

The Sudder Bazar is situated on the Machna Nuddee. These two bazars are in a very good state, and have lately been much improved by having good roads made through them. There is no trade of any importance in them. A house tax is levied. The Government offices are the Commissioner's Court-house, which is held in a private house; the District Court-house, the Jail, the Tehslee, Police Station-house, and Town Police Outpost; also two Government School-houses, one for males and the other for females, and one Indigenous School and a Post Office. There is also a good Dispensary and a Government Akkaree godown. There is a good Serai for native travellers, and a Dâk Bungalow for Europeans and Natives who choose to pay the usual fees. There are two tanks near the Kotee Bazar. Not far from Budnoor is Kherla, the former residence of the Gond Rajahs, where there is an old fort, now in ruins, which used to be held by them; also two tanks, a large and a small one. There are only 20 houses in Kherla; and all the inhabitants are Gonds.

✓ After Budnoor comes Baitool, which is 4 miles distant from it. Baitool contains 1,138 houses, with a population of 5,174 souls, chiefly

Baitool.

* The total area under this cultivation is (1865) about 7,000 acres, and the yield of goor (molasses) is estimated at 70,000 maunds of 80lbs.

† For revenue of all kinds, see Appendix C., page 15.

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Koormees and Mahratta Brahmans. It is situated on the Sampna Nuddee, and is inhabited chiefly by agriculturists. It has a good trade in pottery. A Chowkeedaree tax is levied. No Government offices. There is one Police Outpost, one Government and one Indigenous School, and a branch Charitable Dispensary. There is no tank in Baitool itself; but in the village of Beawarree, not far off, there is a very large one. There is one old fort, and an English burial-ground with two groves on it; also a Mussulman shrine, where a feast is held annually. Baitool was formerly the district head-quarters; but in 1822 A. D., Mr. Clark, the Deputy Commissioner, left it and lived in Budnoor. From that time Budnoor has been the district head-quarters.

Bhaisdehie.

Bhaisdehie lies 32 miles south-west of the district head-quarter station. It contains 625 houses, with a population of 2,293 souls. It is situated on the Poorna Nuddee. This town is something under 300 years old. It was founded by Peerajee Hybut Rao, Deshmookh, whose family became very powerful and plundered the whole country. The town is now owned by descendants of his. It has no particular trade. There is a Chowkeedaree tax levied here. There is a Police Outpost and a Government School. In Bhaisdehie there is an old fort, which used to be the stronghold of the Deshmookhs. There are also two tanks and three Hindoo temples.

Bordha.

Bordha is situated to the north-west of Budnoor, and is 40 miles distant from it. It contains about 300 houses, with a population of about 1,000 souls. It is situated on the Tawa Nuddee. It is in good repair; and has a trade in brass pots, mohwa, and iron. There is a Police Outpost and a Government School.

Chicholee.

Chicholee lies to the west of Budnoor, and is 20 miles distant. It contains 398 houses, with a population of 1,776 souls. A Chowkeedaree tax is levied. It is a mile off the Kundoo. There is only the customary bazar trade in Chicholee. There is a Police Station-house and a Government School in it.

Mooltye.

Mooltye, which lies 28 miles to the east of the Sudder, contains 850 houses, with a population of 3,208 souls. It is situated on the river Taptee. It is now in a very flourishing state, and has some trade in all sorts of produce, particularly opium and goor. There is a house tax levied, which yields about 996 rupees per annum. The Government offices are the Tehseelee, Police Station-house, Government School, Charitable Dispensary, and Akkaree godown. There is a large Hindoo temple here, where a festival, which lasts for 15 days, is held; and there is a large tank, which is said to be the source of the Taptee, and which the Hindoos worship. There is also an English burial-ground. There are several temples on the bank of the tank.

At page 869 of Volume VI. of the Asiatic Society's Journal (Bengal) will be found an account of an inscription on three copper plates obtained in 1837 by M. Ommanney, Esq., B. C. S., from one Kamala Bhastri, a Gosain, who then held a small portion of rent-free land at Multai. A *fac simile* and a translation is also given. The date of this writing appears to be very uncertain; but Mr. J. Prinsep ascribed to it considerable antiquity.

Shahpoor.

Shahpoor lies due north of Budnoor, and is about 24 miles distant. It has 246 houses, and a population of 1,110 souls. It is situated on the

river Machna. This town is more than 125 years old : it was founded by Bhowani Singh, Killadar. It is now in a flourishing state, has no trade peculiar to itself, but has the usual trade of such places. There is an Abkaree godown, a Station-house, a Native Doctor, and a Government School. A bridge has been built across the Machna at Shahpoor.

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Among the objects of interest in the district may be mentioned the old fort of Kherlah, situate on a small isolated hill within a few miles of the present Civil Station. This was the seat of Government under the Gonds and preceding rulers ; and hence the district was, until the time of its annexation to the British dominions, known as the "Kherlah Sircar." The local legend is, that the fort was originally built by one Rajah Jespal, the founder of a Chutree dynasty, many ages ago ; but it is more probable that these petty chiefs were Gonds by origin. The place afterwards fell into the hands of the Mahomedans, for many parts of the building now remaining are unmistakeably the offspring of Moslem art.

Remarkable
places.

Another remarkable fort is that of Borghur, or Bower-Gurh, near Shahpoor : it occupies the crest of a small isolated mass of granite, scarped on all sides but one, which has been apparently upheaved in a mass out of the ridge of the Sautpoora Hills, which now forms its base. Other old forts, now existing only in name, are those of Jamgurh in the north, Saoleeegurh in the west, and Jaitpoor in the east. The latter was once the seat of a minor Gond dynasty ; a descendant of the family still holds a village in that part of the district.

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APPENDIX A.

I.

The Main Road from Budnoor (Baitool) towards Nagpore, and information regarding it.

	Miles.	
Budnoor		Civil Station—Serai's in Sudder and Kotee Bazaar—Charitable Dispensary—Church—Dák Bungalow—Town and Female School-houses—Sudder Distillery—water from river—3 tanks and numerous wells—Police Head-quarters and Imperial Post-Office.
Baitool.. . .	4	No Serai or covered accommodation for travellers—water from river and wells—several large topes of Mangoe trees for shelter during dry weather—Town Police Post—Charitable Dispensary—Imperial Post Office—Bunneas put travellers up—a Putail has a good garden on the English system—vegetable procurable in season—about 5,000 inhabitants.
Sasoondra	14	Serai—water from wells—large village—Rest-house for Europeans.
Mooltye	28	Serai—water from tank and wells—town—5,000 inhabitants—Police Station-house—District Post-Office—Charitable Dispensary—Town School—Dák Bungalow—Tehsiclee—Imperial Post-Office.
Chichenda	38	Serai—water from river Wurdah—supplies cannot be obtained here for more than two or three people at a time.

II.

The Main Route Road from Budnoor (Baitool) towards Hoshungabad, and information regarding it.

	Miles.	
Budnoor		Same as route No. 1.
Neempanee.. . .	13.5	Serni—room for Europeans, with Kitmutgar—water from wells and river—Police Outpost—supplies plentiful.
Shahpoor	26.6	Water from river Macbna—shopkeepers give travellers and traders accommodation in their shops—supplies plentiful—Police Station-house and District Post Office—Rest-house for Europeans unfurnished—Charitable Dispensary—Village School-house—large bridge over Machna.
Dhar	35.1	Serai—room for Europeans, with Kitmutgar—water from a well—supplies very scanty—Police Outpost—supplies have to come from Bordha 8 miles off.
Kaisla	43	Water from wells and river—shed for travellers—supplies plentiful—Police Outpost—good encampment under trees in fine weather.

III.

BAITOOL.

The Main Route from Budnoor (Baitool) towards Mhow, via Hurdar, and information regarding it.

	Miles.	
Budnoor		Same as route No. 1.
Chicholee	16·6	Police Station-house and District Post Office—water from well and tank—Serai—a good large village—supplies plentiful—a village School-house just built.
Cheerapatla	29	Police Outpost—water from river and well—Serai—a few huts—Malgoozar has just built a substantial house—plenty of Gonds—villages within two miles.
Gowasain	40	Police Outpost—water from well and river—Serai—no village at all—a Bunneia's shop established by Local Fund Committee.
Lokhurtalye	58	Police Outpost—water from river—a large village—supplies plentiful—5 miles from Seonee. This is now in Hoshungabad District.

IV.

The Main Route Road from Budnoor (Baitool) towards Ellirhpoor and Budnaira, and information regarding it.

	Miles.	
Budnoor		Same as route No. 1.
Kheree	8	Police Outpost—water from well and tank—supplies from the village—a village School-house just built here.
Jhullar	20	Water from well and tank—a branch road to Bhaisdehie 10 miles—supplies from the village—a Village School-house lately built here.
Goodgaon	30	Police Outpost—water from well—supplies from the village—a village lies some distance from the road, and is hidden from view.
Sawulmenda	42	Water from river—old Police Outpost—one or two huts—no supplies on spot, must be collected.
Dhaba	52	Police Outpost—road passable for carts from Dhaba to Lokhurtalye—water from river—an old Musjid affords protection to travellers—a few Gond huts—Trade statistic post.

BAITOOL.**V.**

The Main Route Road from Budnoor (Baitool) towards Chindwara, and information regarding it.

	Miles.	
Budnoor .. . . .	..	Same as route No. 1.
Amla	10.2	A good sized village—water from tank and wells—Village School-house—Police Outpost—supplies plentiful—several large villages close by.

VI.

Branch Road from Shahpoor towards Sohagpoor, and information regarding it.

	Miles.	
Shahpoor .. . . .	..	See route No. 2.
Dhansee	10	This is a Bunjara route—a fair weather road has been made through the jungle up to Tawa River on the other side: 3 miles remain to be finished to meet the road, which has been completed from Hoshungabad District. The portion is much used by carts.

APPENDIX B.

BAITOL

TEMPERATURE.

Thermometrical Observations taken at Baitool in 1864.

		THERMOMETER.						Remarks.	
		In Shade.			In Sun's rays.				
		Maxi-mum.	Mini-mum.	Medi-um.	Maxi-mum.	Mini-mum.	Medi-um.		
January 1864.	..	65	55	61	85	76	79	This district is said to be excessively dry in the hot and cold weather, and the other extreme in the rains.	
February "	..	68	55	62	107	80	96		
March "	..	72	59	68	115	87	102		
April "	..	99	82	94	126	118	121		
May "	..	100	86	96	130	120	126		
June "	..	100	80	94	115	98	108		
July "	..	79	71	75	99	92	96		
August "	..	76	68	71	94	86	90		
September "	..	84	71	76	99	89	94		
October "	..	68	63	60	88	82	85		
November "	..	66	60	63	86	79	82		
December "	..	64	59	61	84	76	80		

APPENDIX C.

Revenue for 1865-66.—Baitool District.

Land Revenue.	Abkaree.	Stamps.	Forests.	Total.
Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1,84,439	34,514	16,320	9,342	2,44,615

BELASPORE.**BELASPORE.**

THE Belaspore District forms the north-western portion of the Chutteesgurh Division of the Central Provinces; it is situated between $21^{\circ} 45'$ and $23^{\circ} 10'$ of north latitude, and between $81^{\circ} 30'$ and $83^{\circ} 15'$ of east longitude. The extreme length of the district from north to south is 95 miles, and the breadth from west to east 115 miles, and its total area consists of about 8,000 square miles. Belaspore is bounded on the north by the Sohagpore tract in the Rewah territory, and Sirgojah and Oodeypoor States, subordinate to Huzaree Bagh, in the Bengal Presidency; on the east by the district of Sumbulpore; on the south by the Raepore District; and on the west by the Mundla and Seonee Districts. Belaspore formed a portion of Raepore up to 1862, when it was constituted a distinct charge, subordinate to the Commissioner of Chutteesgurh.

Tehseels.

It is divided for administrative purposes into three Tehseelees—Moongelee on the west, Belaspore in the centre, and Sheorenarrain in the east.

Zemindaries.

The northern, eastern, and western limits are a series of continuous hill tracts; while the central portion is a large plateau merging in the Raepore District. The hilly tracts are held by *quasi* independent Chiefs. The names of those estates are as follows, and they will be found separately described :—

1. Kuwurda.	8. Choorce.
2. Suktee.	9. Korba.
3. Paindra.	10. Chappa.
4. Kainda.	11. Bhutgaon.
5. Laffa.	12. Belaegurh.
6. Mahteen.	13. Kuttungee.
7. Ooprarah.	14. Pundurreah.

The Chiefs of the two first mentioned estates have been recognized by the British Government as Feudatories; and the remainder are Zemindars, ordinary subjects under the regular laws. The estates of Kuwurda and Pundurreah extend a considerable distance into the plains, and constitute important and valuable territories. The others are generally poor, and, although extensive, they include much hill and forest, are inhabited by wild and uncivilized races, and yield an insignificant rental. In these tracts the Government maintains no police and no revenue establishments.

Towns.

The towns of the district are generally a collection of thatched mud huts. The ruins of former structures have more an antiquarian than an architectural interest; a rough style of brick work was the sole achievement of the people.

Hills.

The whole northern and western boundary of the Belaspore District is a series of hills. To the east, also, there are scattered hills, dividing the Belaspore District from Sumbulpore, but no continuous ranges.

BELASPORE.

The Vindhya Range to the north divides Belaspore from the Rewah Territory, and then runs easterly into the Chota Nagpore Country. To the west it joins the Meikul Range, which merges in Umurkuntuk, a Hill about 3,600 feet high, the sacred source of the Nerbudda, and the annual resort of large bodies of pilgrims. The most of the hills composing the Vindhya Range attain no greater height than 2,000 feet; some of them are covered with stunted forest trees, while others are rocky and bare; and, although wild and interesting, they cannot be considered imposing or picturesque. The Laffa Hill is one of the highest, and the only one with any history. It is over 3,000 feet high, and possesses a considerable area of table-land. The ancient Rajpoot rulers of the country had a strong fortress here, erected more than ten centuries ago, the remains of which still exist.

The Sautpoora Range, which runs south of the Meikul Hills, and forms the western boundary of Belaspore, represents the same characteristics as the Vindhya Range; consisting mainly of low hills, with here and there basins and valleys, probably cultivated, and intersected by water-courses. There are no hills of any note; from Belaspore an offshoot of the Sautpoora Range runs south to Bhundara, and west to Mundla and Seonee.

Of isolated hill tracts, the Sonekan, the Suktee, the Bitkoolee, and Dulha Hills, are the most important. With the exception of the Dulha Peak, none of them present any peculiarities. The Dulha Peak is prominent, rising, as it does, an isolated hill in the centre of the Belaspore plain, to a height of about 2,000 feet. It is bare and precipitous, and is one of the positions taken up by the Great Trigonometrical Survey.

In all the Ranges above mentioned there is little good timber, excepting Saul; but the supply of Saul over this immense area may be said to be almost exhaustless. Iron-ore is found in considerable quantities, and worked here and there after the rude native method; so far as is known there are no other metals; a seam of coal is exposed on the banks of the Husdoo (see under Korba), and it is inferred that coal in some quantity must exist in the Vindhya Range.

In the Belaspore District the Mahanuddee may be said to be the only river. All the others, though possessing a considerable volume of water at intervals during the rainy season, remain for the greater part of the year very insignificant streams. (These will be described under Mahanuddee).

Rivers.

The forests of Belaspore are situated on the hill tracts belonging to Zemindars, and consist chiefly of Saul (*Vatica Robusta*) and Saj (*Terminalia Tomentosa*): the former is in great abundance, but as yet it is incapable of being utilized, owing to the remoteness of the locality and the difficulties of transit. There is a Teak tract on the southern bank of the Mahanuddee, near Seorenarrain, 50 miles from Belaspore; but with this exception no Teak exists.

Forests.

The mineral resources of the district are considerable; but they will probably not be developed for years, owing to the mountainous and inaccessible nature of the country. In the northern hills the supply of iron-ore may be deemed almost inexhaustible, and in the vicinity, fuel for smelting purposes is abundant. A bed of coal, believed to be

Minerals.

BELASPORE. of considerable depth and excellent quality, exists at Korba, situated on the Husdoo, 30 miles east of Belaspore. No attempts have yet been made to work the coal.

Manufactures. There are no local manufactures of any importance; and the wants of the people have been of so primitive and simple a kind, that machines, skilled artizans, and superior workmen in any trade do not exist; coarse cloth, adapted for local use, is extensively made, but a very insignificant portion of this is exported. A description of silk is made, called Tussa, from the thread of the Tussa silk worm. The cocoons are collected in the hill forests in June, from the branches of the Saj trees, by a thoroughly wild race called Bhoomias, or Bygas. Those who rear the worm visit the forests during the rains and purchase the cocoons. These they take to their huts. On the worms leaving the cocoons and laying their eggs, the latter are carefully hatched in earthen vessels till the new worm is formed and of a size sufficient to be transported to the adjacent Saj trees. Here they are placed and watched till the new cocoons are formed. These are then sold to the weavers. As far as ascertainable, the statistics of this silk manufacture are as follows:—

Number of Looms..	300
Number of pieces manufactured..	3,000
Annual value	Rupees 12,000

Trade.

The trade of the district may still be considered undeveloped, though much progress has been made since the introduction of British rule. The chief exports are grain, goor, cotton, and lac; the chief imports are cloth, sugar, and salt. The traffic flows north over the Vindhya, passes to Rewah and Mirzaipoor, and west over the Sautpoora and Meikul Ranges, by the Kainda Pass to Jubbulpore. The extent and value of the exterior trade, according to the statistical Returns for 1865-66, is as follows:—

NORTHWARD.	EXPORTS.		IMPORTS.	
	Maunds.	Rupees.	Maunds.	Rupees.
Cotton	15,310	2,20,120	..	..
Sugar	4,053	19,708	2,262	34,998
Salt .. .. ..	..	..	1,908	16,754
Grain	185,098	2,53,096	128	191
Oilseeds	60	120	237	422
Metals and Hardware .. .. ..	..	..	1,265	42,540
English piece-goods .. .. ..	..	..	265	25,077
Miscellaneous European goods .. .. ..	..	..	45	3,562
Country cloth	382	6,099	81	2,580
Lac	17,721	1,75,269	..	..
Horses, Cattle, and Sheep .. .. ..	..	7,893	..	1,49,447
Cocoanuts	9,750	95,096	..	..
Miscellaneous	2,299	35,601	3,854	56,557
Total	234,673	8,15,002	10,145	8,82,198

	Rupees.	BELASPORE.
Land revenue	1,78,931	Revenue.
Miscellaneous revenue	10,059	
Abkaree revenue	7,100	
Stamp revenue	14,490	

There are no metalled roads in the Belaspore District, but the cart tracts are numerous, and with annual repairs after every monsoon can be travelled on without difficulty. During the cold-weather months the only road fit for cart traffic leading out of the district is the line to Raeapore. This line runs for 30 miles in this district. It is raised, and is a good dry-weather road, all the streams and rivers in the district being fordable for carts. The other lines leading out of the district are: north, to Mirzaipoor and Rewah; west, to Jubbulpore and Mundla, and, lastly, to Sumbulpore. The line towards Jubbulpore is partially made for the first 20 miles or so out of Belaspore; and the Chilpee Pass, leading from the plains of Chutteesgurh into the uplands of Mundla, has been rendered just passable for wheeled carriages, and is being further improved. The Raja Dhar Pass on the same line, parallel with the Chilpee, is not used for carts. As yet much remains to be done for permanently improving the communications of the district.

Climate.

Belaspore gets the credit of being very unhealthy, and location there is considered by natives of other parts of the Central Provinces almost equivalent to a sentence of banishment. The tract is doubtless, to a large extent, unhealthy; but its remoteness and isolation, more than its absolute unhealthiness, paralyse the new comer. A local fever prevails, aggravated by the number of tanks and the decaying vegetation which exists everywhere; this fever is general after the cessation of the monsoon. During the cold weather small-pox is prevalent; inoculation is practised to a limited extent; but vaccination, except in the immediate neighbourhood of Belaspore, is unknown. In the hot months epidemic cholera rages with severity. Local tradition asserts that cholera was unknown till the year A.D. 1740, when Bhasker Rao Rhonsla's army devastated the country, and that it has been a yearly scourge only during the last 20 years. Whatever truth there may be in these surmises, one thing is certain, that the visitations of cholera of late years have been more regular and severe. Unlike other parts of India, there is no indigenous system of medicine, nature in all cases being left to effect its own cure. (For further information, see under Chutteesgurh).

Belaspore.

Belaspore is the head-quarters of the district bearing its name. It is pleasantly situated on the south bank of the river Urpa. The town is said to have been founded rather more than 300 years ago by a fisher-women named Belasa, from whom the place takes its name. For a long period it consisted of only a few fishermen's huts; but about 100 years ago, one Kesho Punit Soobah, the manager of the district on the part of the Mahrattas, took up his residence here and began to build a fort. This fort was never completed, but a portion of it still exists on the banks of the river, at one extremity of the present town. It is a brick structure, in no respect imposing, and with no pretensions to architectural beauty. As the town became the residence of an important

BELASPORE.

official and the head-quarters of a military contingent, men connected with trade settled in it. Subsequently, however, under Mahratta rule, the chief official residence was fixed at Raepore, and the Belaspore District became a subordinate collectorate with its head-quarters at Ruttunpore. Belaspore again, therefore, dwindled into comparative insignificance. It was in 1862 constituted the head-quarters of a separate district, and is now a rising town of over 5,000 souls. The vicinity of the town is well wooded; there are many gardens and mangoe groves; and the view of the distant hills is at all times a pleasant prospect. At Belaspore are the Courts, Civil and Criminal, of a Deputy Commissioner and of an Extra-Assistant. The only buildings of any importance have been erected for Government purposes. Belaspore is in latitude 22° 6' north, longitude 82° 10' east. It is 69 miles from Raepore, 144 from Mundla, and 140 from Sumbulpore.

Belaigurh.

Is a small Zemindaree consisting of 42 villages, chiefly wild and forest, and, owing to former irregularities on the part of the Chief, to a great extent deserted. At Belaigurh itself there are the remains of an extensive fort and the ruins of some ancient temples, showing that the town held formerly a position of considerable importance. It is now an insignificant hamlet with a few huts, containing the personal retainers of the Zemindar—and the bulk of these of the most miserable description.

Belpan.

Is a small village 15 miles west of Belaspore, of traditional and sacred interest to the local community. It is believed that a natural spring here, called Nerbudda, is an emanation from the source of the great Nerbudda at Umurkuntuk. Some centuries ago it is alleged a devout Brahmin resided at Belpan, who at an advanced age was constant in his pilgrimages to Umurkuntuk. Though his sight was dimmed with years, and his body was weak and feeble, he still persisted in these journeys, in the face of all the sufferings and inconveniences they entailed. As a reward, this spring was opened near his own residence, and he was informed that it issued from the great Nerbudda. A temple was then built near the spring, and a large reservoir constructed. Subsequently the Rajah of Ruttunpore endowed the temple with the revenues of the Belpan village, which was granted rent free to the descendants of the devout Brahmin. The Mahrattas upheld the grant, which continues to be enjoyed under the British Government.

Bhutgaon.

Is the chief town of a Zemindaree, which is known by its name, lying 50 miles east of Belaspore. The estate consists of 40 villages, which are all more or less cultivated. Bhutgaon is a small town, with a sprinkling of men of all classes and trades, but like all towns in this part of the country has no pretensions to architectural beauty. The town is a motley collection of mud huts, and the Zemindar's residence is no exception to the rule. There are no objects of interest to be seen in the vicinity.

Chappa.

Is a small Zemindaree, consisting of 30 villages, 50 miles east of Belaspore, and its chief town is a collection of miserably-constructed mud huts. There are resident here a considerable number of weavers, whose manufactures find a ready market in the adjoining bazaars.

Bunmeedehee—a thronged weekly resort for the sale and purchase of different commodities.

BELASPORE.

The head-quarters of a Zemindaree of 115 villages. Is a small town at the foot of the Vindhya Range, south of Ooprarah and east of Kainda, about 35 miles north-east of Belaspore. The estate is chiefly hill and forest, and the Zemindar a member of the Paindra family. His pedigree is a long one, but is unsupported by any external evidences of greatness. His residence is a mud structure, with thatched roof, and there are no indications that his ancestors were in a more flourishing condition than himself.

Choorsee.

Is a small and insignificant hamlet, containing some 60 huts and a population of 2 or 300 souls, situated 50 miles south-east of Belaspore, on the south bank of the Mahanuddee River and on the borders of the Sonekan Estate. The spot itself possesses no peculiar attraction; but here originated the religious reformation of the Chumars of Chutteesgurh (see under Chutteesgurh).

Girode.

Is a town containing a population of 2,000 souls, chiefly remarkable as a community of weavers. Cotton and silk cloths are manufactured here to a considerable extent, and the community is in a fairly flourishing condition. Although the town is said to have been established by the Gonds in the remote past, there are no indications of antiquity in the vicinity, nor objects of interest to attract the visitor.

Gootkoo.

Is a small town 30 miles north-east of Belaspore, and was formerly a favourite resort of the Ruttunpore Court. A notable temple, built by one of the Ruttunpore Rajahs about 500 years ago, still stands in a remarkably complete condition. It is perhaps the best specimen of ancient architecture in the district; and the minute and quaintly sculptured images which crowd its base possess considerable interest. An immense tank in the vicinity of the temple shows the favor in which the town was held.

Janjeer.

Is situated 20 miles north of Ruttunpore, on the Belaspore and Rewah Road, at the foot of the Vindhya Range of Hills, and is the head-quarters of a small Zemindaree consisting of 56 villages. The tract contains a large amount of Saul forest, and a considerable quantity of Lac is exported from it to Mirzapore. Owing to the poverty of the soil, cultivation is carried on to a very limited extent.

Kainda.

Is the head-quarters of a Zemindaree, situated at the foot of the Salee Tekree Range, 60 miles west of Belaspore. The estate consists of 300 villages, with a population of 30,000 souls. The Kuwurda Zemindaree was originally a part of the Zemindaree of Pundurreah; but owing to family quarrels Mahabullee, a younger brother, separated, and 112 years ago established himself at Kuwurda. His grandson is the present Zemindar; and during the interval that has elapsed the tract has been largely cultivated, and is now a valuable estate; there being more cotton produced in this Zemindaree than in any other part of Chutteesgurh. The town of Kuwurda is a large and flourishing one, containing a considerable trading community, and it is the only town in an extensive area where tiles have replaced thatch as a roofing material. The town is famous as the residence of Purghut Kuber

Kuwurda.

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Sahib, the High-Priest of the Kubeer Punthee religion—an offshoot of Hinduism, and the Faith, largely of men of Punka, Ganda, and Kosh-tah castes. The essence of the Kubeer Punthee Faith is a belief in Kubeer, its author, as a spirit. The tradition is, that some 350 years ago a young woman of the weaver caste found floating amidst the vegetation of a tank in the vicinity of Benares, where she had gone to draw water, an infant, apparently a few months old. She was amazed and alarmed at its cries, and was attempting to escape when the infant recalled her. Reluctantly she took the child up, and when he attained manhood he was noted for his great learning among the devout men of the sacred City. A jealousy sprung up; and eventually, when taunted with his birth, he explained that he was of divine origin. A religious persecution commenced, and Kubeer had to fly to Muttra. There he had many followers, and on his death was succeeded by a disciple of his own nomination. This disciple, probably owing to Brahminical intolerance, left Muttra, and after much wandering settled in Mundla, from whence, about 60 years ago, the chief representative removed to Kuwurda. Here the head of this Faith is now located, and is held in reverence by thousands of the people, who continue superstitiously to worship him as the descendant of the great Kubeer. The annual offerings must be of substantial value, as the Kubeer maintains one or two elephants and a certain State, in addition to which he is believed to possess a considerable fortune.

Khurode.

Is an important town, containing a population of 3,000 inhabitants, about 40 miles east of Belaspore. There are residents here of all trades; and a weekly market is held, which is largely resorted to by the neighbourhood. The town itself was formerly the residence of a Sub-collector. This official is now located in the adjoining town of Seoreenarain; but Khurode still maintains its position. The first establishment of the town is unascertainable; but an inscription on an old tablet indicates its existence as long ago as Sumbut 902 (A.D. 845). The remains of ancient earth-works, over portions of which the plough has long travelled, indicate that the position was once regarded as a formidable stronghold.

Kuttungoo.

This is the head-quarters of a small Zemindaree, containing 40 villages, and situated on the Jonk, near its junction with the Mahanuddee River. The town contains a small and flourishing community of traders and weavers; and a weekly market is held, to which all the villagers in the vicinity resort.

Korba.

Is a small town, consisting chiefly of the Zemindar's retainers, on the bank of the Husdoo River, 40 miles east of Belaspore. The Korba Estate, consisting of 272 villages, extends from the eastern plain, over a succession of hills and small valleys north, to the boundary of Oodeypote, a chieftaincy subordinate to Huzaree Bagh. The country is generally wild and poorly cultivated, though the Chief himself has travelled more than most men of his class, and is a man possessed of much intelligence and shrewdness. If means of communications were available, his extensive forests of Saul and the seam of coal at Korba

itself, would constitute a valuable property. As it is, the only exports from the Zemindaree are lac and silk cocoons.

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Is a small and insignificant village, 25 miles north of Belaspore, the head-quarters of the Laffa Zemindaree, of 60 villages. Near it is the Laffa Hill, 3,280 feet high, once a position of considerable importance. The remains of a large brick fort on the top of this hill, and of temples in ruins, indicate former prosperity. The plateau on the top presents an area of 3 square miles—formerly alive with the busy doings of men, now covered with brushwood and forest, affording a secure shelter to wild animals. More than a thousand years have lapsed since this position was given up by the rulers of Chutteesgurh in favor of Ruttunpore. It would seem that the security of so important a position was, in the first instance, required by the Rajpoot Rulers of the Hey-Hey-Bunsee dynasty on their entering the land as strangers with their followers. In any case, tradition clearly asserts that the first Rajahs dwelt here, and ruins still extant support the assertion. As the Hindoos increased in numbers and established their superiority over the aborigines of the country, a comparative sense of security on the part of the former, and a feeling of resignation on the part of the latter, tended to the abandonment of so inconvenient and confined a locality as the Laffa Hill Fortress, and led to the establishment of Ruttunpore, 12 miles distant, as the capital. Since then, Laffa has ceased to be a locality of any importance, and is now only a poor and hilly tract, inhabited mainly by Gonds.

Laffa.

This is the head-quarters of a Talookdaree, containing 128 villages, ✓ Lormee. with a population of about 30,000 souls. It is situated 40 miles west of Belaspore, and 8 miles south of the Meikul range of hills. The estate is a valuable property, and was granted as a mark of personal consideration about 40 years ago to a Byragee named Burindoss, whose son is now Talookdar. At the time of the grant the tract was wild and inhabited by Gonds; but in the interval great progress has been made, and nearly the whole plain in the vicinity and south of Lormee is a sheet of cultivation. To the north of the tract the hills and forest extend to Umurkuntuk.

Is a town established about 300 years ago by a brother of Kullian Sah, Rajah of Ruttunpore, and now contains a population of some 1,500 people, lying 20 miles south and west of Belaspore. After the town was established, an imposing earthwork was constructed, which is now nearly level with the ground; but the ditch which protected this earth-work, 40 feet wide, still remains. There are no old temples in the vicinity, nor ancient buildings of any kind. A weekly bazaar is held, to which the residents of the neighbourhood largely resort.

Maro.

This is the head-quarters of a Zemindaree, containing 90 villages, adjoining Ooprarah, and situated under similar circumstances.

Mateen.

Is a Tehseel station, 36 miles west of Belaspore, on the direct road to ✓ Moongaylee. Jubbulpore. The Tehseel circle contains nearly 800 villages, with a revenue of 80,000 rupees, and a population of about 230,000 souls. It is situated on the river Augur, which at this point is so tortuous in its course as to envelop the town on three sides. It was established by

BELASPORE.

Surwur Sing about 250 years ago. He was the descendant of Gond Thakoors, who had this tract of country transferred to them by Kullian Sah, Rajah of Ruttunpore. The tract was at this time covered with forest, and inhabited chiefly by Gonds. It was held undisturbed for nearly 200 years, until the time of Futtey Sing, who proved himself obnoxious to the reigning house at Ruttunpore, and was summoned by Rughonath Sing, who murdered him. The Moongeylee jurisdiction then reverted under direct management; but a small tract, called Muddenpore, containing 50 villages, was made over to a brother of Tukhut Sing, and his great grandson still continues to hold these. In Moongeylee itself there are no objects of interest; the town has a mixed population, and is daily increasing in importance, being conveniently situated for traders. Two large weekly bazaars are held, and are much resorted to; the sales at each are computed to reach 4 or 500 rupees. There is a Police Station House here, and a Town School, which at present contains about 80 pupils.

Mulhar.

Is situated 20 miles south-east of Belaspore. It is said to be a very ancient locality, having been founded 500 years ago by one Muldeo, and to have contained a population of nearly a million souls. It is now a fair-sized village, with indications of its former greatness, in the remains of a large earth-work with a surrounding ditch. This seems to have enclosed the former city, and probably awed the surrounding country. There are the ruins, too, of some very old temples, which would, no doubt, be interesting to the Archaeologist. At the present time the residents are a purely agricultural community.

Nowagurh.

Is a town 50 miles south-west of Belaspore, containing a population of 2,500 souls. It derives its name from having been in ancient times the chief of nine forts, and was established 300 years ago. The remains of an old and extensive earthwork exist, but there are no other important structures. It was formerly the residence of a Sub-collector, and is now the head-quarters of a number of pensioners and Brahmins, but its trade is limited.

Coprarah.

Is the head-quarters of a very wild and hilly Zemindaree of the same name, consisting of 69 villages, situated on the northern hills of this district, and stretching to the boundary of Sirgoojah and of Singrowlee in the Mirzapore District. The tract lies east of Mateen and Paindra, and is 50 miles north-east from Belaspore. There are very few villages; and those there are, are inhabited by most uncivilized races, chiefly Gonds, Binjwars, and Bhoomias, who fly to the wilds on the approach of the white man. Very little is known of this part of the country. It is covered with forest, and is infested with wild elephants, who effectually prevent any progress in cultivation.

Paindra.

Paindra is the head-quarters of the Zemindaree of the same name, consisting of 149 villages, and situated in the midst of the Vindhya range of hills, which separate the Chutteesgurh Plateau from the Rewah Territory. It is about 60 miles north of Belaspore. The tract was granted some 600 years ago to the ancestors of the present holder, of the Kuwar caste, by the Rajah of Ruttunpore. It is dotted here and there with villages; but the bulk of the area is covered with dense

forest, chiefly of Saj (*Pentaptera tomentosa*), Saul (*Valica robusta*), and bamboos. Paindra itself is a good sized town, and is on the direct road from Belaspore to Rewah, along which there is a constant flow of traffic by carriers in the cold weather months. There are the remains of a fort and of a large bamboo enclosure, made in the first instance, to ward off the attacks of the aboriginal Gonds. A magnificent grove of mango trees, interspersed here and there with wide-spreading tamarinds, makes the locality a pleasant encamping ground. None of the hills exceed a few hundred feet in height, except Umurkuntuk, which formerly belonged to Paindra, but was transferred a few years ago to the Rajah of Rewah for his services during 1857-58. The river Soane, a tributary of the Ganges, has its rise on the Paindra Hills, and at this point is an insignificant spring protected by a masonry reservoir. There are a few iron mines in the tract, and lac is collected to a considerable extent. The Zemindars of Kainda, Laffa, Chooree, Mahteen, Ooprarah, and Korba—all estates lying east of Paindra—trace their origin to the original house of Paindra; and all boast of a common ancestor. These Zemindars are all of the Kawar caste.

BELASPORE.

Is now an insignificant village, on the road to Seoreenarrain, 20 miles east of Belaspore. In the early history of Ruttunpore, the fort of Pamgurh occupies a prominent position as a formidable stronghold. An earthwork about 50 feet high, covering a large area, and enclosing a tank, still exists in a partially complete condition, and indicates the locality as one of considerable importance in the former unsettled state of the country.

Pamgurh.

✓ Is about 50 miles west of Belaspore, and near the foot of the Meikul Range of hills which separate the Mundla highlands from the Chutteesgurh plateau. It is represented to be a very ancient town; but there are no old ruins in the vicinity, though heaps of buried debris have at intervals been excavated, indicating the existence of masonry buildings on the spot at a remote period. The town, situated near the foot of the ghat, has a considerable trade, and is visited annually by carriers from Jubbulpore. It contains about 1,000 houses, and a population not exceeding 5,000 souls. There are traders, shopkeepers, goldsmiths, and a considerable number of weavers settled in the town; and the weekly market held here is the largest in the Pundurreah Zemindaree. The houses are all of the meanest description; corn traders, possessing adequate means, follow the custom of the locality, to content themselves with mud structures and a thatch roof. There are two temples in the town: one, sacred to Debee, built some 30 years ago by Jemadar Choroban, and the other, not yet a score of years old, built by a Mahajun of the place, Rajpal Sahoo. There are no older structures; nor have these any pretensions to beauty. There are four tanks, two of which are said to have been dug two centuries ago, the others to have been excavated within the last thirty years. There are no objects of interest in the vicinity of the town to attract the visitor.

Pandoo Tur-
ral.

Is the head-quarters of a Zemindaree of very ancient standing, and was formerly a part of the Gond kingdom of Mundla. It was wrested from the Gonds at the close of the 18th century by the Mahrattas, and since then has been a part of Chutteesgurh. The estate lies 50 miles

Pundurreah.

BELASPORE. west of Belaspore, near the foot of the Sautpoora Range of hills. It consists of 288 villages, and a large portion of it is a level plain well cultivated; but westward, the limits are hilly and covered with forest. The Zemindar is a Raj Gond, and has made over the bulk of his estate to farmers. Pundurreah itself is a mere village, with no trade of any importance.

Ruttunpore.

This is a very ancient city, situated 20 miles south of the Vindhya Range. It was the former capital of the Chutteesgurh country, and the head-quarters of the former Sovereigns of the country. These Sovereigns were of Rajpoot origin, and their line was denominatated the Hey-Hey-Bunsee dynasty; they were off-shoots from the Hindoo house which ruled at Mundla. Although much of their early history is wrapped up in the invented myth of religious tradition, yet there is every probability that this dynasty exercised sovereignty over Chutteesgurh for fifty generations, and that their capital was at Ruttunpore (see under Chutteesgurh). Few remains are now standing to indicate the former greatness of this city. It covered formerly an area of 12 square miles; and the ruins of two palaces are still objects of interest. There are several temples of great antiquity, but possessing no architectural beauty of a high order; the oldest is dedicated to Mahamaee and Mahakally, or the universal mother and principle of fecundity, and also to Suruswutee, the goddess of poetry, painting, sculpture, eloquence, and music. It is said to have been erected about the year A.D. 749. A temple of recent erection is deserving of notice; it is dedicated to Ram, and was built on a hill to the east of the town about 100 years ago by Bhimbaji, Rajah of Nagpore, who displayed great taste in the selection of the site. The hill on which the temple stands overhangs the town; and to a traveller approaching Ruttunpore, the temple is an attractive and picturesque object.

The immense groves of mango trees, the innumerable temples and tanks, all indicate that at one period there must have existed in Ruttunpore a large and flourishing community. Its situation, in the bosom of hills, must have made it a safe and formidable retreat in times of trouble and conimotion; and its most prosperous condition probably dates from the time when the surrounding districts were in the infancy of progress, and when a safe shelter was required within its walls from the wild aborigines who inhabited the plain.

Ruttunpore, as the chief town of Chutteesgurh, fell by conquest into the hands of the Mahrattas in A.D. 1742. In modern Indian History, it is mentioned that after Law and his French followers, supporters of Shah Allum, were discomfited in A.D. 1761 by the British at Patna, and Law himself taken prisoner, a remnant of 120 men, attempting a retreat to the Deccan, were entertained for a few days at Ruttunpore by the Mahratta Commander, and afterwards treacherously murdered by him.

The city was one of considerable importance till the death of Bhimbaji Bhonsla, Rajah of Nagpore, in A.D. 1782. Since that time, when the removal of the Government officials to Belaspore took place, its prosperity has faded, and a gradual decrease of population has been

BELASPORE.

followed by the growth of luxuriant vegetation in places long deserted, so that great damp and unhealthiness prevail; and Ruttunpore can no longer be deemed a desirable place of residence. It possesses, however, a considerable trade, and will probably always be a town of some importance, as its position near the Kainda Ghat, over which the traffic from Chutteesgurh to the north now passes, makes it a convenient emporium.

Ruttunpore is in latitude north $22^{\circ} 17'$, longitude east $82^{\circ} 15'$. It is 12 miles north from Belaspore.

Situated 45 miles south-west of Belaspore, on the road to Mundla. Is considered a sacred spot by the Hindoos; a natural spring, providing a constant supply of pure water to the community, is believed to be an emanation from the sacred Ganges. A masonry reservoir protects the spring, and a temple has been built near the spot to consecrate the humble offerings of the faithful. The village is of no importance, containing less than 100 huts.

Saitgunga.

Seoreenarrain.

Is a Tehseel station 40 miles east of Belaspore, on the banks of the Mahanuddee. The village itself is not a very large one, containing only a population of 1,500 souls. But its position on the road to Juggunnath, its ghats on the Mahanuddee, its sacred temples, its ancient groves, make it a place of constant resort, and a halting place for crowds of pilgrims. The spot was in former days a favourite residence of the Ruttunpore Court, and the royal ladies at certain seasons repaired thither to bathe in the sacred stream. The first community is supposed to have settled here more than a thousand years ago. The temple to Narrain, from which the place takes its name, is, from the writing on one of its tablets, supposed to have been built about the Sumbut year 898 (A.D. 841). It is an object of interest on account of its extreme antiquity, but possesses no architectural beauty. In contrast with this sacred structure, hoary with age, there are now in course of erection two substantial buildings, a tehsil and police station-house, which face the river, and attract the visitor's eye from a far distance. No less important is the masonry edifice built recently by Urjoondas Muhunt, the head of a religious institution at Seoreenarrain, for the instruction of his fellow citizens. An annual fair is held at Seoreenarrain in February, and is an important gathering. In the rains the Mahanuddee, at this point, is a magnificent stream, and is navigable from Sumbulpore for large boats. Even in the dry season the appearance of the river is not unimposing, and retains a channel with several fathoms of water.

Sonekan.

Is an estate formerly held in Zemindaree tenure, lying 60 miles south-east of Belaspore, and 20 miles from Seoreenarrain. The estate consists of two small fertile villages surrounded by hills. At the time of the Sepoy Mutiny (1857), Narrain Sing, the Zemindar, rebelled against the Government. A party proceeded against him, and he was seized and executed: his estate being confiscated. The tenantry deserted almost in a body, and the whole tract speedily became a desert. A part of the estate has recently been taken as a waste land grant by a European gentleman, Mr. Meik; and, with the application of English capital and energy, the property, it is hoped, will soon assume a new aspect.

BELASPORE.**Suktee.**

Is the residence of the Rajah, a Gurjat Chief, who holds the Suktee Estate. It is situated 70 miles east of Belaspore, and is a small hamlet of no importance. The estate is hilly, and the cultivation is limited and of a very inferior description. The Rajah pays a Government rental of only 240 rupees. His family has held the property for many generations subordinate to Sumbulpore, and the estate has only very recently been transferred to the jurisdiction of the Belaspore District.

Tukhutpore.

This town was founded by Tukhut Singh, Rajah of Ruttunpore, 180 years ago. It is 20 miles east of Belaspore, on the Jubbulpore road. There are the foundations remaining of a brick palace built by Tukhut Sing, and a rude temple structure dedicated to Mahadeo. Tukhutpore is a flourishing town, with a well attended weekly market. It contains traders, artizans, and weavers, and a population of 5,000 souls. There is a commodious village school built by the residents, pleasantly situated on a height facing the Muniary stream, which flows slowly to the west of the town. A Government police post is located in the town for the maintenance of the public peace.

BHUNDARA.**BHUNDARA.****General description.**

BHUNDARA is one of the four districts comprised in the Nagpore Commissionership, of which it occupies nearly the whole of the eastern portion. This district (bearing the name of its sudder town) has an area of about 5,500 square miles, and is bounded on the north by Seonee and Mundla, on the south by Chanda, on the east by Raepore, and on the west by Nagpore. The station of Bhundara is about 38 miles east of Nagpore. The district stretches northwards some few miles beyond Sumnapore, and from that point, to a village called Sowerah, in the south, the distance is about 100 miles as the crow flies. If a line were drawn through the centre of the district, it would measure about 80 miles direct from east to west; but when measured from the extreme point north-east, to a corresponding one south-west, the distance would be about 20 miles more. The entire tract may be described as an irregular oblong. There are few mountains of any size in this district. The north, north-east, and east, are bounded by lofty hills, inhabited chiefly by Gonds and other wild tribes; but the west and north-west are comparatively open. The course of the Wynegunga through the whole length of the district passes through scenery, in some places remarkably picturesque; especially where, as at Ambhora, it runs through gaps in ranges of granite rock, which intersect its channel and overhang either bank.

Mountains.

As previously mentioned, the loftiest hills lie on the north and north-east of the district, and separate it in a measure from the Raepore District. The average height of these hills is between 800 and 1,000 feet above the level of the plain, though at some points, as at Leela in the Dhunsooa Pergunnah, and at Kundra in the Lanji Pergunnah, the elevation above the plain rises to 1,300 and 1,400 feet. Several small ranges, branches of the Sautpoora Hills, make their way into the interior of the district, generally taking a southerly direction.

Different bluffs and marked elevations in these ranges bear the names of the villages near which they occur, but there is no general name for the whole. These hills are thickly covered with forest trees and bamboos, but they do not contain much valuable timber. Numerous wild beasts find refuge in these hills, and infest the plains below. Another range of hills, about 60 miles in length, skirts the south of the Chandpore Pergunnah. Their average height is between 3 and 400 feet above the level of the plain, and they are known by the name of the Ambagurh, or Sendoorjheree Hills. This range is clothed with very little timber of any size, but it furnishes a fair amount of firewood. The water procured in the vicinity of these hills is said to be very unwholesome. In addition to the above ranges, there are a few detached hills worthy of mention, viz., the Bullahi Hills, the Kuneree Hill, and the Nawagaon Hills.

The Bullahi Hills lie about 6 miles west of Bhundara, and are about 400 feet above the level of the plain. They extend over a considerable space of ground, and are about 24 miles in circumference. They are quite bare of vegetation, but afford some pasturage for cattle, and plenty of building material, in the shape of large slabs of shale and blocks of laterite.

The Kuneree Hill is about 18 miles to the south-east of Bhundara. The height is about 300 feet above the level of the plain; and it is also quite barren, though yielding some good building stone. In portions of this hill good bone-stones, and white soft stone for pottery, are found.

The Nawagaon Hills encircle the large tank or lake of that name, and, though scantily clothed with vegetation, are infested with wild animals. They do not average much more than 200 feet above the level of the plain.

The formation of these hills is mostly granitic and schistose, with here and there a range of overlying sandstone. Among certain geological papers on Western India, published in 1857 by the Bombay Government, is an article by Messrs. Hislop and Hunter, in which is described the great granitic area within which the whole district lies, and which, beginning from Nagpore Town on the west, is said to extend as far east as the Bay of Bengal. The following extracts make up a brief sketch of the geological structure of the country round the Wynegunga:-

"Granitic and Schistose Rocks."—The plutonic and metamorphic formation, the extent of which I shall now briefly indicate, lies chiefly in the eastern portion of our area. It is intersected by the Wynegunga for the greater part of its course. The tract on the left bank of the river I have had little opportunity of exploring, but, from the cursory examination I have given it, I have reason to believe that there is a large development of granite and its allied rocks, including an extensive outburst of porphyry, which coincides nearly with the upper portion of the course of the Wagh River. This eruption exhibits crystals of quartz and of white, occasionally red, felspar imbedded in a dark paste of the same ingredients. On the right bank of the Wynegunga, in the district near its junction with the Wurdah, the extent of the

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formation is not so great. It is observed principally in the channel of the Wynegunga, though it may also be traced around the bases of the sandstone chains of hills, which it has been the means of upheaving. In both the districts under consideration, the general strike of the strata is north and south, corresponding with the direction of the streams and mountain ranges; and in the last mentioned, the dip is for the most part to the west. But it is on the north that the greatest development of granite and crystalline schists occurs. There we may perceive these rocks rising to the surface (though it would be hazardous to conclude that there are not others of a different character in the hollows covered up by the deep soil) from Nagpore north-eastward to the Lanji Hills.

"On either side of the Wynegunga we meet with some isolated remnants of the sandstone formation. One of these, but very limited in its dimensions, lies on the banks of the Selari, a small stream which joins the Wynegunga near the town of Pawani. Another, further down the river, extends for some distance, first on the right bank, and then on the left. In the district on the east of the Wynegunga, a little sandstone proper is met with, in patches among the hills on the west bank of the Gurwi and Waghi Rivers, reaching from Mahagaum as far north as Ambgaum."—*Geological Papers of Western India*, p.p. 254—256.

Extensive beds of laterite, overlying the primary rocks, are found in the district about Lanji, and all around Harsi and Kampta. It is again seen near Pownee, whence it stretches southward in a broad belt far into the Chanda District.

Rivers.

The chief river, and the only one that does not dry up in the hot weather, is the Wynegunga, which runs along the whole length of the district's Eastern border. Its most important affluents in this district are the Bhawunthuree, the Bhag Nuddee, the Kunhan, and the Choolbund.

The Wynegunga is not navigable in this district, except during the rains; and in the hot weather its stream is extremely shallow, though the channel is indented here and there by deep pools, which abound in fish. The average breadth of the river from bank to bank, in this district, is about 600 yards, and the chief towns on its banks are Toomsur, Bhundara, and Pownee.

The Bhag Nuddee rises in the hills near Cheezghur, flows north, via Ambgaum and Kampta, until it empties itself (conjointly with the Deo Nuddee) into the Wynegunga at Satona; it joins the Deo Nuddee at a village called Kokah, about 18 miles north of Kampta.

The Deo Nuddee rises in the Sinkona Hills, flows north for about 16 miles, when it turns towards the south and joins the Bhag Nuddee, after a course of 70 miles.

The Garwee and Choolbund Nuddees water a considerable part of the south-east of the district. The Garwee rises near Cheezghur, and immediately takes a southerly course, and reaches the Wynegunga about 150 miles south, or 10 miles from Wiraghur. The Choolbund rises in the hills about 20 miles south of Ambgaum, passes near

Sangurrhee, and joins the Wynegunga at a village called Aolee.

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There are several other small streams, which serve as affluents to those above mentioned, but they are very insignificant; viz., the Pungolee Nuddee and the Kuttungee Nulla running into the Bhag Nuddee, the Sat Nuddee into the Choolbund. The Soor Nuddee waters a large tract of land immediately north of Bhundara, and empties itself into the Wynegunga only about a mile from the station. The Chunnee Nuddee waters above 100 miles of this district, and, flowing past Rampylee and Kuttungtota, empties itself into the Wynegunga at a village called Mahalgaon, about 10 miles south of Rampylee. The Bawunthuree Nuddee runs though this district for about 30 miles of its course; it waters all the country immediately north of Chandpore and Ambagurh, reaching the Wynegunga at a village called Buperia, 8 miles east of Chandpore. All the above streams, with the exception of the Wynegunga, dry up in the hot weather. There are no towns of importance on any of these streams.

This part of the country is chiefly cultivated by means of irrigation from tanks, for which the Bhundara District is famous. "These tanks," writes the Chief Commissioner, Mr. Temple, "are so numerous, and some of them so large, being many miles in circumference, that this tract might almost be called the LAKE REGION of Nagpore. Here a tank is not a piece of water, with regular bank, crowned with rows or avenues of trees, with an artificial dyke and sluices, and with fields around it, but it is an irregular expanse of water; its banks are formed by rugged hills covered with low forests that fringe the water, where the wild beasts repair to drink; its dykes, mainly shaped out of spurs from the hills, are thrown athwart the hollows,—a part only being formed by masonry; its sluices often consist of chasms or fissures in the rock; its broad surface is often, as the monsoon approaches, lashed into surging and crested waves."

TANKS
OR LAKES

The two largest lakes in the district are worthy of particular notice. Kowroo Patels Bund, or the Nawagaon Tank, is an extensive piece of water, lying in the south-east of the district. It exceeds 24 miles in circumference, and is upwards of 90 feet in depth in parts, and it irrigates the lands of several villages. It is by far the largest tank in the Central Provinces, and is said to have been built by the great-grandfather of the present Malgoozar of Nawagaon about 150 years ago, at a cost of rupees 64,000. The scenery is magnificent, as this tank is bounded on three sides by hills.

The Seonee Tank is another of considerable size, about 8 miles north-west of the Nawagaon Tank. It was built by Dawloo Patel Kohoree about 325 years ago, whose family had possession of the village of Seonee for about 250 years. In the time of Rughojee I., it was given to Bankabai, whose descendants hold it now. This tank is about 9 miles in circumference, with an average depth of about 30 feet.

The Sirregaoon Tank was formerly a very fine piece of water, about 6 miles east of the Nawagaon Tank. It is now empty and out of repair, and would require a very large sum to set to rights. Besides the above, there are thousands of minor tanks used for irrigation,

THE CENTRAL PROVINCES GAZETTEER.

BHUNDARA. many of which retain an ample supply of water throughout the hot season. There are also numerous sites for new tanks, and ancient tanks of large size, now ruined, and requiring repair, though at such an outlay, as to render the undertaking one of doubtful advantage.

Captain Pearson, Conservator of Forests, Central Provinces, in a report upon the irrigation of the valley of the Wynegunga, submitted to the Chief Commissioner in March 1863, points out that there are two distinct kind of tanks in this region. He describes them in the following passage :—

Tanks. “The first and by far the largest are formed in the undulating country of the lower districts in the valley, by taking advantage of the contour of the ground and constructing a short dam so as to form a lake or basin from the drainage of the surrounding hills. The second class is that commonly found in the flatter country, and away from the hills, where a long low dam is raised across the upper portion of a gently sloping plain. These are more or less excavated near the centre, where some nullah or depression of the ground is taken advantage of to create a reservoir more or less deep. The long arms of the bund collect the drainage, which fills into the centre reservoir, and when this is full, spreads itself out into a large shallow tank; the water thence is distributed to the rice field below; and although there is an enormous loss from evaporation, yet, as the rice does not require water for above two months or almost 75 days, the tanks generally suffice for the purpose required. Tanks of the last description are sometimes of very large size, but commonly they are what are called “Bhoorees,” having bunds not more than 10 or 12 feet high; and as soon as the rice crop is gathered the dam is cut, any remaining water let out, and a crop of wheat or linseed sown in the bed. This is almost a universal practice in Lanji and the northern pergunnahs of Bhundara. Indeed it seems the only means of raising a dry crop which the people possess in those districts. I have seen several very large tanks so drained and cultivated.”

Minerals:
Gold.

A little gold is found in the bed of the Sone Nuddee, but hardly repays the trouble of searching for it, as the gold, even after cleaning, is somewhat impure, and only fetches from 10 to 12 rupees a tola. The separation of the particles of gold from the sand and dirt is effected by washing, and subsequent application of quicksilver.

Iron.

Iron is found to some extent in this district, and the supply is not only sufficient for the local demand, but also constitutes an article of export. The chief mines are situated in the pergunnahs of Chandpore, Tirorra, Lanji, and Pertabgurh; but the best iron is that obtained from the Chandpore Pergunnah. These mines are mere pits, averaging, generally, only 10 or 12 feet in depth; and the vertical clay furnaces for smelting the ore are very primitive and inefficient; requiring a great deal of time and trouble to produce a very small result. The people usually engaged in this laborious work are Gonds, Goaras, Purdhans, and Dheemurs, from whom the middlemen purchase the rough iron slabs. The iron obtained from the mines at Agree and Ambajhiree in the Chandpore Pergunnah, is reported very tough and malleable. Geroo, a kind of red ochre, is found in the Salee Tekree

BHUNDARA.

tract, and is used to some extent in this district for staining wood and dying cloth.

Of stone for masonry, the laterite, shale, and sandstone are found all over the district, though the largest quarries exist near Bhundara, at Korumbee, and in the Bullahi Hills. Hone-stones, and white soft stone for pottery, are also found in some quantity in the Kuneree Hill near Pohora.

A number of indigenous vegetable productions are found in this district, though none exist in such quantity as to be commercially valuable. Among these are lac, wild indigo, wild honey, and wild arrowroot, besides several kinds of gums and medicinal roots. These are gathered chiefly in the jungles to the north of the district, and in the Salee Tekree tract. Amongst the cultivated vegetable products of this district, the chief staples are rice, sugarcane, jowaree, and linseed; though wheat, gram, ginger, and yams are also grown to some extent. With the exception of Saj (*Pentaptera iomentosa*) the forests in this district do not contain much valuable timber, though Teak (*Tectona grandis*) to some extent, and Bijesal (*Pterocarpus marsupium*) in small quantities, are found here and there.

Vegetables.

Owing to the large extent of jungle in this district, wild animals abound. The Tiger and the Panther are the most dangerous and destructive to human life; and during the rainy season many people die from the bites of venomous snakes. Deer of all kinds, and wild pigs, frequently cause great injury to the crops. Of farm cattle, the bullock of this district is noted for its staunchness and endurance, though rather small in build. The cows generally are excellent, and in some parts of the district are of good size. Bulls are usually imported from Berar: but the Government has lately brought in some stock from Nellore in Madras, for the improvement of the breed. Sheep breeding, for the sake of the wool, is carried on to some extent, though suitable pastureage is somewhat limited. The silk-worm is also bred in some parts of the district with success, producing a coarse kind of silk; but there are very few persons engaged in this culture. The soil and climate generally throughout the district are favourable to the successful cultivation of all grains, as the seasons are mild and the rainfall abundant; though, from sparseness of the population and absence of enterprize, nearly half the area of the district is still (1866) waste land.

Animals.

The district is divided into three Tehseeldarees, viz. (1) Ambagurh, with four pergunnahs, (2) Sangurhee and (3) Kampta each with three pergunnahs. The four pergunnahs of the Ambagurh Tehseeldaree are Ambagurh, Tirrora, Blumbara, and Chandpore. This is the western sub-division of the district. It occupies an area of 1,236 square miles, of which 481 are cultivated, 322 culturable, and 433 waste. The population amounts to 251,461 souls, inhabiting 549 towns and villages, with an average of 203 to the square mile.

Divisions of the Country:

Tehseeldarees and Pergunnahs.

The Sangurhee Tehseeldaree is composed of three pergunnahs, viz. Sangurhee, Pertabgurh, and Pohonce. This tract of country comprises the whole of the southern part of the district, and extends over an area of 1,624 square miles, of which 391 are cultivated, 600 culturable, and 633 waste. The population amounts to 199,310 souls, inhabiting 632 towns and villages, with an average of 123 to the square mile.

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The Kampta Tehseeldaree is also composed of three pargunnahs, viz. Dhunsooa, Rampailee, and Lanji. This Tehseeldaree occupies the whole of the extreme north and north-east parts of the district. Its area extends over 2,584 square miles, of which 685 are cultivated, 946 culturable, and 953 waste. The population amounts to 305,702 souls, inhabiting 762 towns and villages, with an average of 118 to the square mile. Of the 2,488 villages in this district, 1,943 only are inhabited, and the rest deserted: hence the figures given above for the towns and villages only refer to those which are populated. The figures for the population are approximately given in accordance with the settlement statistics.

Towns: There are only eleven towns of any importance in this district, and of these, only five contain upwards of 5,000 inhabitants. They are as follows:—

Benee.

This town is situated on the Wynegunga, and lies about 50 miles north-east of Bhundara. It contains upwards of 500 houses, with a population of more than 2,500 souls. The town is placed on a high bank, and only three miles distant from the junction of the Bhag Nuddee and Wynegunga. There is a small trade in cotton-cloth locally manufactured; and the dyers of Benee are noted for the excellent colour of their stuffs, and the agreeable patterns they stamp on carpets, &c. There is a small Government school and a police outpost in the town. The principal castes are Koshtees, Rungaras, and Dhers, with a fair proportion of Lodhees, Koonbees, and Goaras, though very few of any other caste. There are no wells or tanks in Benee, and the river water is used for drinking and all other domestic purposes. The site of the town is well raised and open, and the climate is reputed healthy.

Bhundara.

This is the sudder station and head-quarters of the district. It is situated on the Wynegunga, and close to the Great Eastern Road, 38 miles distant from Nagpore to the west. The town contains upwards of 4,000 houses, with a population varying from 16,000 to 18,000 souls. There is a considerable trade in cotton-cloth and hardware, manufactured in the town. The principal castes are Dhers, Koshtees, and Kussars, with a fair sprinkling of Mahomedans and Brahmins. As the head-quarters of the district, Bhundara contains the district and settlement offices, post office, Government dispensary, jail, police head-quarters, with district and town police station-houses, dâk bungalow, Assistant Engineer's office, public library, and the Government zillah school. There are, besides, a female school and two indigenous schools,—one for Mahratti, and the other for Persian and Oordoo. There are two honorary magistrates in Bhundara, viz. Gunput Rao Venkutesh and Yado Rao Panday. The watch and ward and conservancy of the town are provided from the town duties; the farm of which for the year 1866-67 was sold for Rs. 10,500. The town is kept very clean and well drained; and is reputed healthy. It is built entirely upon red gravel soil, so that even the lanes are easily kept dry and in good repair throughout the year. The well water inside the town is generally brackish; but there are several wells

of sweet water and some tanks just outside, while the river Wyne-gunga runs at no great distance. BHUNDARA.

This town is situated about 80 miles to the north-east of Bhundara. It contains upwards of 800 houses, with a population of more than 4,000 souls. There is very little trade or skilled occupations, and the majority of the inhabitants are cultivators. This town is the head-quarters of the Hutta Zemindar, Gunput Rao, who usually resides here. The town contains a large and flourishing Government school, a police station, and district post office. The Zemindar possesses a handsome residence, surrounded by a fortified wall and moat, within the limits of the town. Inside this enclosure, there is an excellent garden of some extent, well stocked with fruit trees, vegetables, and flowers, with an elegant summer-house in the centre. The well, which is used for watering the garden, is one of the finest in the district, furnishing an abundant supply of clear, sweet water all the year round. There is also a fine baoee, with a handsome flight of steps, and covered chambers below, with a temple adjoining, just outside the Zemindar's residence. This was built by the former Zemindar, Chima Patel, about 70 years ago, and is still in very good order. The Zemindar of Hutta is also constructing, at his sole expense, in the centre of the town, a handsome and commodious Dispensary. He has been recently appointed an honorary magistrate. The principal castes are Koonbees, Goaras, Lodhees, and Rungaras, with a few Koshtees, Brahmins, and Mahomedans. The conservancy of Hutta is provided for by the Zemindar, who keeps up an establishment for the same. The site is well raised and drained, and the soil gravelly. The town is reputed very healthy, and its general appearance is undoubtedly pleasing to the eye, as it lies on a slight rise of the land, surrounded by fine mango groves, with a background of hills to the north and east.

This town is situated about 60 miles to the north-east of Bhundara. The fine sheet of water of the Jhilmelee tank lies only a mile off to the north, and the Rangolee nullah flows past the town within two miles on the east. It contains upwards of 600 houses, with a population of more than 3,000 souls. There is little or no trade, and the majority of the residents are cultivators. This town is the head-quarters of the Kampta Tehseldaree, and the Zemindar of Kampta possesses a handsome residence, surrounded by a fortified wall and moat, within the limits of the town. There is also a large and flourishing Government school, a district post office, and police station-house. A handsome and commodious Dispensary is now under construction at the sole expense of the Zemindar of Kampta. The Zemindar, Eshwunt Rao, is an honorary magistrate, and usually resides at Moordara, though he visits Kampta occasionally. The principal castes are Koonbees, Binjwars, and Rajpoots, with a fair proportion of Brahmins, Mahomedans, Dhers, and other castes. The conservancy of Kampta is provided for by the Zemindar, who keeps up an establishment for the purpose. The town is now kept fairly clean; and the site, being open, with a gravelly soil, is reputed healthy. The well water inside the town is in places sweet, and in others brackish; but there are several tanks in and near the town, so that there is no want of, or difficulty about water. KAMPTA.

BHUNDARA.

Lanji.

This town is situated about 80 miles to the north-east of Bhundara, and lies to the south-east of Hutta. It is 20 miles due east of Kampta. It contains upwards of 500 houses, with a population of more than 2,000 souls. There is little or no trade, nor any local manufacture, and the majority of the inhabitants are cultivators. There is a large and flourishing Government school, a police station, and a district post office. The principal castes are Mahomedans, Binjwars, Barays, and Brahmims, with a fair proportion of other castes. The town is badly situated, being placed very low, with a number of tanks round it, and dense bamboo jungle coming close down on the north and north-east. In consequence, the soil is exceedingly damp, and the climate very unhealthy, except in March, April, and May, when the soil has been well dried, and the vegetation is not too rank. From the above description, it may be supposed that the soil in and around the town is very fruitful; and, indeed, inside the town there are very many gardens of fruit and flower trees, and many splendid groves of mango and paun gardens all round. The well water is sweet and cool, but, from the circumstances described above, fever, ague, and rheumatism are endemic in Lanji. The town derives its name from a supposed incarnation of the goddess Deyhee, called Lanjkae, for whose worship there is a very old temple just outside the fort, on the edge of the moat. There is also a curious ruined temple about a mile to the north-east of the town, in the middle of the bamboo jungle, dedicated to the worship of Mahadeo, and round this temple are seen the remains of what is said to have been the original town. Arrangements were made this year for diverting the surface drainage from the fort moat, and for gradually filling it up.

Moharee.

This town is situated on a small nullah, an affluent of the Soor river, and is about 10 miles due north of Bhundara. It contains upwards of 2,500 houses, with a population varying from 9,000 to 10,000 souls. There is a considerable trade in cotton-cloth, of which the manufacture is carried on in the town, and is well known and esteemed. There is also a trade in grain of some extent. The principal castes are Keshtees, Dhers, and Kullars, with a few Mahomedans, Telees, and other castes. This town contains a large and flourishing Government school, a police station, and a district post office. There is a large and handsome temple, built lately by the Marwarees of Moharee. The watch and ward and conservancy of the town are provided from the town duties; the sum of which for the year 1866-67 was sold for Rs. 5,100. This town is kept fairly clean, and is reputed healthy; but the well water is brackish, and the supply scanty in the hot season.

Pochonee.

This is a large enclosed town also, situated on the Wynegunga, but about 32 miles lower down the river, and due south of Bhundara. It is surrounded on three sides by high ramparts of earth and a ditch, the walls being in some parts crowned with stone battlements; its fourth side, to the east, stands on the scarped bank of the Wynegunga; two or three handsome stone ghats, now much out of repair, lead down to the water's edge; some temples of decent architecture, and fine trees here and there, overlook the river. This town contains

upwards of 5,000 houses, with a population varying from 14,000 to 15,000 souls. Many of the houses, however, are deserted and in ruins, and the number of the inhabitants has considerably decreased within the last twenty years. This decay is owing partly to the unhealthiness of the climate, and partly to the removal of the wealthier residents to Nagpore. There is still, however, a considerable trade in cotton cloth and silk pieces; and some of the finer sorts manufactured in this town are exported to great distances, and are noted for their beauty and closeness of texture. The principal castes are Koshtees, Brahmins, and Dhers, with a few Mahomedans and other castes. This town contains numerous Hindoo temples, some of great antiquity; but the great temple of Moorleedhur, though comparatively a recent construction, is the only one of much repute. This is a handsome and lofty building, and very well built, and is surrounded by a fortified wall. Here also is a large and flourishing Government school, a police station, a district post office, and a small rest-house for travellers on the bank of the river. The watch and ward and conservancy of the town are provided from the town duties; the sum of which for the current year (1866-67) was sold for Rs. 7,600. The town is reputed very unhealthy; and this is no doubt attributable to the enclosure of the place, by the lofty walls already mentioned; also, perhaps, to the stagnant waters in the ditch, and to the dense jungle and cultivation both in and around the town. The well water inside the town is generally brackish, though there are one or two wells of sweet water. The majority of the inhabitants, however, use the river water for drinking and for all other domestic purposes.

BHUNDARA.

This town is situated about 24 miles to the south-east of Bhundara, and about 3 miles due south of the great Seonee tank. The Choolbund Nuddee flows past the town within 3 miles distance on the west, and the immense sheet of water of the Nawagaon Lake is only 8 miles distant on the east. Sangurhee contains upwards of 1,200 houses, with a population varying from 5,000 to 6,000 souls. There is a considerable trade in cotton-cloth, of which the manufacture is carried on in the town, though the quality is somewhat inferior to that of Moharee or Undergaon. There is also a small amount of silk-worm breeding and rearing. The silk, when spun into skeins, is exported to Pohonee and Berar. The principal castes are Koshtees, Dhers, Brahmins, and Purdesees, with a fair proportion of Mahomedans, Kullars, and Bunneahs. This town contains a large and flourishing Government school, and a police outpost. It was formerly the headquarters of the Sangurhee Tehseeldaree; but this was transferred last year to Sakolee on the Great Eastern Road, and the trade of the place has declined somewhat since. The watch and ward and conservancy of the town are provided from the town duties; the sum of which for the year 1866-67 was sold for Rs. 1,600. The town is kept fairly clean, and possesses a gravelly soil; but is reputed unhealthy. The well water inside the town is unwholesome and brackish, and is impregnated with some mineral substances, in consequence of which it is very heavy and soft. There are a few wells of sweet water outside the town; but the inhabitants generally use the water of the large

Sangurhee.

BHUNDARA. tank to the north of the town, for drinking and all other domestic purposes. This was built about 300 years ago, but is now in ruins, and the name of the builder is forgotten. The original settlement of Sangaon stands about half a mile to the north-west of the present town.

Sehora. This town is situated about 30 miles to the north-east of Bhundara. It contains upwards of 600 houses, with a population varying from 3,000 to 4,000 souls. There is a fair trade in the ordinary cotton-cloth of the country, which is manufactured in the town, though of rather inferior quality. The town contains a large and flourishing Government school, and a police outpost. There is also a fine well of sweet water, with a broad flight of steps, just outside the town, near where the weekly market is held. The principal castes are Koshtees, Powars, and Dhers, with a few Mahomedans, Bunneahs, and other castes. The names of the principal inhabitants are Hemraj, Marwaree; Yenka Patel, Powar; Dhurma, Koshtee; and Heoralall, Bunneah. The watch and ward and conservancy of the town are provided from the town duties; the farm of which for the year 1866-67 was sold for Rs. 925. The town is clean, dry, and healthy; and all the well water is sweet and wholesome. A large tank, which always contains water, is situated just beyond the southern limits of the town, and is very convenient for the inhabitants.

Toomsur. ✓ This town is actually situated on a small nullah, which rises in the Ambaghur Hills, and, with the Lawundoho Nullah from Chandpore, flows into the Wynegunga a little beyond Toomsur; but the Wynegunga itself runs close by. Toomsur is about 20 miles distant from Bhundara, in a north-easterly direction. It contains about the same number of houses and of fixed inhabitants as Moharee; but for eight months in the year, or during the grain traffic season, the number of residents in Toomsur rises to 15,000 or 16,000 souls. The extra population live in temporary structures, and in a number of houses which remain vacant during the rains. The chief trade of Toomsur is in grain; for it is a Dépôt for all sorts of cereals from the Chutteesgurh country. The grain is sold wholesale in the market, then stored, and afterwards exported towards the west. The trade is very extensive, and a large number of persons find employment during the season in ministering to the wants of those engaged in it. Besides the trade in grain, there is a small local manufacture of coarse cotton-cloth; but if the corn trade were diverted, and Toomsur should lose its advantages as an entrepôt between the producers of the east and the markets of the west, this town would be no more than the fifth, instead of being, as at present, the first in the district. This town contains a large and flourishing Government school, and a police outpost. The town is surrounded by numerous fine groves of mango trees, which add to the beauty of the landscape. The principal castes are Telees, Dhers, Gonds, and Goars, with a very small proportion of Brahmins, Mahomedans, and other castes. The watch and ward and conservancy of the town are provided from the town duties; the farm of which for the current year (1866-67) was sold for Rs. 15,250. The town is kept fairly clean and drained. It is built on red gravel soil, and is reputed healthy. The well water inside the town is in places brackish and unwholesome, but there are

a number of wells of sweet water just outside, which with several tanks prevent any inconvenience to the inhabitants. During the grain traffic season, the watering of the numerous herds of cattle is apt to exhaust the supply of water; but the construction of a large reservoir, on the north-west of the town, has been undertaken through the liberality of one of the leading inhabitants.

BHUNDARA.

This town is situated on the same nullah as Moharee, and is about 16 miles north-west of Bhundara. It contains upwards of 1,000 houses, with a population varying from 4,000 to 5,000 souls. There is a considerable trade in cotton-cloth, of which the manufacture is carried on in the town, and it is as well known and esteemed as that of Moharee. The principal castes are Koshtees, Dhers, and Telees, with a few Mahomedans, Koomars, and other castes. This town contains a small Government school. The names of the principal inhabitants are Seetaram Punth, Karoo Sethia, and Wuzeer Khan. The watch and ward and conservancy of the town are provided from the town duties; the farm of which for the current year (1866-67) was sold for Rs. 4,750. This town is reputed healthy, and is also kept fairly clean. The well water is sweet and wholesome, and, for general purposes, the nullah above-mentioned yields a sufficient supply of this necessary element.

Undurgaon.

The only road which is raised, bridged, and metalled for any distance, is the Great Eastern Road, which enters the district on the west, near the village of Shahpore, and, passing through Bhundara, Sakolee, Urjoonee, and Deoree Kishoree, crosses the Bhag Nuddee by a substantial bridge into the Raepore District, at a point about 65 miles due east of Bhundara. This road is nearly completed to a point beyond Sakolee, or upwards of 24 miles from Bhundara towards Raepore, and, with the exception of the Wynegunga, all the important nuddees and nullahs are bridged. At the crossing of the Wynegunga, during the dry season, there is a raised fascine roadway for the convenience of the traffic across the sandy bed, and a couple of platform boats during the rains. There is a second class of roads unmetalled and unbridged, (except by temporary contrivances,) but smoothed, levelled, and sloped at the crossings of water-courses. Of these, the following roads are the most important; viz., the district road from Raepore to Chanda, which enters this district on the south-east, and, passing through Cheezgurh, Pallandoor, Nowagaon, Diggoree, and Powree, proceeds to Chanda via Burimpooree; and the district road from Raepore to Kamptee via Durreykassa, Ambgaon, Bagurbund, and Toomsur. The second route has the heaviest traffic; and where it crosses the Wynegunga at Oomurwara, there is a raised fascine roadway across the sandy bed of the river during the dry season. The minor communications of the second kind are as follows; viz., to and from Rampailee and Kuttunghee in the Seonee District via Urjoonee; to and from Rampailee and Warra-Seonee in the Seonee District via Mendeewara; to and from Kampta and Mundla via the Sumnapore Ghat, which has been cleared and levelled; and to and from the Nandgaon Zemindares in the Raepore District, and Kampta, via Dheeree, Munglec, and Nundora: by which route most of the traffic is carried on men's heads, owing to the difficult mountain passes which

Road Communications.

BHUNDARA.

separate this district from Raepore at that point. The whole of the roads belonging to the second class are excellent fair-weather roads, but are almost impassable for wheeled traffic during the rains. When all other routes are closed during the monsoon, the water communication of the third kind, on the Bhag Nuddee and Wynegunga, is of great use, and would probably rise to some importance if the dangerous barriers of rocks in the bed of the Bhag Nuddee at Satona, and in the bed of the Wynegunga at Cheezgaon, could be removed. At present, owing to these barriers, the communication by river during the rains is limited to the interior of this district; whereas if they were removed, the communication might be extended to the heart of Mundla and into the richest pergunnats of the Raepore District. The carriage used on all the roads in this district is chiefly the common country cart, and the pack-bullock; while on the river, the boats employed are Dongas, which are usually large logs of Teak scooped out and lashed together.

Population
and general
description of
the people.

According to the Settlement statistics, the population of this district amounts to 756,443 souls. Setting aside the primitive and (so called) aboriginal tribes of Gonds, Bygas, and the like, this population may be generally classed under the two great divisions of Hindoos and Mahomedans, though the latter do not equal 5 per cent. of the former. Of the Hindoos, the caste divisions are chiefly as follows; viz., Brahmins, Purdesees (generally Rajpoots), Powars, Lodhees, Koonbees, Korees, Kullars, Telees, Dheemurs, Koshtees, Goaras, and Dhers. The two first-mentioned castes are the most educated and intelligent, the four next are the most industrious and skillful agriculturists, and the two last are the most numerous. The higher castes in this district—such as Brahmins and Purdesees—are usually occupied as landholders or agents of others, and are found in Government employ; the middle castes—such as Powars, Korees, Kullars, Lodhees, Koonbees, and Telees—are usually engaged in agriculture, either as farmers or tenants of land; and the lower classes—such as Goaras, and Dhers—furnish the laborers for all public or private works, farm service, &c. Besides the above, there are a few intermediate classes, who are occupied in commerce—such as the Marwarees, Bunneahs, and Purwars; and in trades and manufactures—such as Koshtees, Kussars, Punchals, Lohars, Bureys, Beldars, and Koomars. Of these, the Koshtees, or weavers, are the most numerous, while the numbers of the other intermediate castes are comparatively trifling, and confined to certain localities,—generally large towns and villages. The Dheemurs also are a numerous caste, and live chiefly by fishing, and the hire of their boats for carriage. Of the Mahomedan portion, the greater part are employed as Pinjaras, or cleaners and dealers in cotton; as Kucharas, or makers of glass ornaments; and a few are landholders and tenants. The Bygas inhabit the Salee Tekree tract and the hills north of Lanji. They are probably a sub-division of the Gonds; but in their social customs and religious ceremonies differ considerably from them. They are exceedingly wild and timid; go almost naked; and live chiefly on the natural products of the jungle, but they are said to be exceedingly honest and willing if properly treated, and will no doubt, in time become more civilized with the increase in cultivation.

which the Zemindar of Salee Tekree is gradually effecting. Another section of the people of this district, who are also more or less connected with the Gonds, and who have acquired the unenviable reputation of being professional criminals, are the Kykarees, Holiahs, Hulbahs, and Purdhangs. Among these, the Kykarees are notorious as skilful and determined thieves. The lower classes in this district, however, as in almost every part of the country, furnish the great proportion of the occasional criminals.

BHUNDANA

Manners
and
Customs.

The inhabitants of this district are extremely rude and unpolished in their manners, and say and do things in company with each other, without shame or confusion, that would shock the ideas of propriety entertained by any civilized Hindooostanee. The higher classes are no exception to this rule, though, from their superior education and intelligence, they might be supposed more capable of appreciating the advantages of courtesy and decency. Nor can it be said that these rude and coarse manners are compensated by any high standard of truth or manliness; for it must be confessed, that the people have no larger share of these virtues than more civilized orientals. However, the Gonds and Bygas are generally honest and hard-working, when well treated. The Powars and Korees, too, among agriculturists, are industrious. The two proverbs most current in this district, sufficiently indicate the general tone of morals. They are as follows:—"Charity remains at home," and "Deceit is the perfection of wisdom." The higher classes have none of the hardy, active habits of life which are still maintained in Northern India by many persons in good position. They have an indolent dislike of standing if they can possibly sit; and they very seldom mount a horse, using small two-wheeled ox-carts for all journeys, long or short. And it is not easy to get a fair day's work out of the labourer. Cheap food and a stationary population, a mild, equable climate, and a landlocked district without roads; are among the causes to which these characteristics may be traced; but with the cessation of the last of these causes, some change is already appearing. There are few social customs or religious ceremonies current in this district which are not common to all classes of Hindoos in other parts of India; but, perhaps, nowhere is the marriage tie less considered, than among the lower castes here; more especially among the women, who often divorce themselves from their husbands, and select, of their own will, several mates in succession, without any opposition from their lawful lords. All, except the higher classes of Hindoos,—such as Brahmins and Purdesces,—also adopt a ceremony called Pât, in lieu of a formal marriage, for joining a man and woman who agree to live together. This, however, can only take place after the death of the first husband or wife, and is considered a kind of lawful concubinage. This ceremony much resembles the "Nikka" marriage, common among Mahomedans. The Powars, Lodhees, and Koonbees are most notorious for these peculiar notions regarding the obligations of marriage. Again, contrary to the custom prevalent in other parts of the country, in this district girls are more honoured than boys, and the mode of proceeding in betrothal engagements is reversed, as the father or relatives of a boy are obliged to seek out and

BHUNDARA. humbly supplicate the parents of the girl with whom they wish to marry their son, instead of being sought after themselves. The proportion of educated and influential men of the higher classes among the Hindoos in this district is so small, that in few districts are the mass of the people more ignorant of even the forms and ceremonies attached to their own religion. This leads to a great diversity of ideas on the subject, and very loose notions regarding the worship of the various Hindoo deities. The most common object of worship, however, throughout the district is a rude representation of generative power, as symbolising the creative attributes of Mahadeo. But in addition to this common object of worship, all kinds of quadrupeds, different kinds of reptiles, and even remarkable tombs, are all worshipped by their individual votaries: and a large tomb, near the village of Moormaree, about 10 miles from Bhundara, where rest the remains of an English lady, is held in great veneration by the surrounding villages. The Mahomedans in this district form only a small fraction of the population, and are rather notorious for the neglect of their religious duties, and generally disordered, dissipated living.

Languages.

The language in common use in this district is Mahratti, though, from the neighbourhood of Ordoo-speaking districts, Oordoo is understood generally throughout the district, with the exception of a portion of the villages in the southern parts of the Sangurhee Tehseeldaree. The Mahratti, however, as spoken and written commonly in this district, is by no means pure, and is largely mixed with Oordoo. There are also several dialects peculiar to different classes of the people, which are only understood by them: they are used by the Gonds, Bygas, Golars, and Kykarees.

Diseases.

The diseases most prevalent in this district are fever, small-pox, and cholera. Under this last title, the natives also include, without distinction, all diseases of the stomach and bowels. Fever prevails throughout the year, but is more general and fatal during the months of September, October, and November, at the time of the ripening of the rice crops. Among the lower classes, the result of an attack is generally delirium and death within two or three days. Their scanty food and clothing, and the hard work in the rice fields in water, with a burning sun overhead, are, no doubt, predisposing causes; but in almost all cases in this district, an attack of autumnal fever goes to the head, and is exceedingly prostrating in its effects, even when it is not fatal. Small-pox is also very prevalent in this district, but more especially during the months of April, May, and June, when it carries off a number of victims, more especially among the younger members of the community; whereas fever is more prevalent among the village population and those engaged in agriculture. Small-pox attacks the larger communities in the towns. This is owing, I believe, to the greater want of ventilation, and the facility afforded for communicating the disease by numbers congregated in one place. Vaccination has made but little progress in this district as yet; and the superstition and ignorance of the mass of the people, place, great obstacles in the way. Cholera is a permanent resident in this district and never entirely leaves it, and commits great ravages, more particularly during the rainy season, when,

however, all deaths occurring from diseases of the stomach or bowels are credited indiscriminately to cholera by the natives. An attack of cholera in this district is almost always followed by a fatal result, as the apathy and superstition of the natives prevent their taking even such remedies as are offered. The spread of intelligence by means of education, the practical aid afforded by the establishment of branch Dispensaries, and the vigorous measures adopted for the enforcement of simple sanitary rules, will, no doubt, cause a great decrease in the mortality in future.

BRUNDARA

The agricultural operations in this district are carried on very nearly in the same way as in some of the adjoining districts. The implements used in these operations are the Teefun, or drill-rako, with three shares; the Nagur, or ordinary drill plough, with one share; the Bukkhur, or hoe plough; and the Dourun, or small weeding plough. The Teefun is used for ploughing the ground only when it is sufficiently moist to be drawn over it. The ordinary drill plough is used when the ground is hard and caked, or when ample time is remaining to complete the sowings. With the Bukkhur, the weeds in the field are destroyed and inequalities partially levelled before either of the drill ploughs are drawn over it. The Dourun is used to weed jowar (millet) fields between the drills, to loosen the earth at the roots of the plants, to raise the earth at their roots; and thus promote their growth and give them greater stability, and also to thin the field of some of the stalks. These results are obtained by drawing the Dourun once over the field. There are two sowings in the year—one at the commencement of the rainy season, and the other at its close. The former sowings are called Seeâree, and the latter Oonharee. The Secâree sowings are performed thus : at the setting in of the rains the Bukkhur is drawn over the ground a couple of times, after which it is sown with the Teefun, which forms three furrows and drops the seed into them at each turn of that instrument. The furrows are not deep; but the Teefun is well suited for preparing fields in the rainy weather, when the ground is soft, and the operation of sowing is required to be performed expeditiously. For the Oonharee sowings, the Teefun can only be used when the rains continue to the middle of October, about which time these sowings commence. The Bukkhur is drawn over the fields reserved for spring crops, whenever there is an intermission of rain for a week or more, to destroy the weeds and open out the ground to enable it to absorb as much water as possible. If the rains are not favorable, the Nagur, or drill plough, with one share, is generally used to plough and sow the fields. The furrows formed by the Nagur are deeper than those made by the Teefun, and the seeds sown in the furrows by the former are covered by its operation; that is, the seeds dropped in the first furrow are covered when the second one is formed, and so the second and every subsequent furrow when the next after them are made. Of the drills formed by the Teefun, the seeds in the two inner drills, at each turn of that instrument, are left uncovered with earth. In the rainy season this is not of much consequence, as the water, running down the ridges, carries some earth with it into the drills; but in the Oonharee sowings, when there is no rain, the seeds which are exposed are liable to be picked up

Agriculture.

BHUNDARA.

by birds. The Khureef, (Seearee) or autumn crops, are the rice, jowaree (*Holcus sorghum*), kodo (*Paspalum frumentaceum*), kootkee (*Panicum miliaceum*), toor (*Cytisus cajan*), cotton, and tillee (*Sesamum*). The Rubbee, (Oonharee) or spring crops, are wheat, gram, linseed, moong (*Phaseolus mungo*), lakh, (pigeon pea) buttana (common pea), and poput (dwarf bean). Some of the seeds are sown in drills, and some broadcast. The seeds sown in drills, are wheat, jowaree, linseed, gram, toor, cotton, lakh, moong, buttana, poput, and tillee; and those sown broadcast, are kodoo, rice, and kootkee. There is no peculiarity in the mode of sowing any of the seeds, but that of rice and sugarcane tubers. The rice is sown in three different ways: one of these is called bota, which is sowing by broadcast; another is called kouruk, which is by first steeping unhusked rice in hot water for a few minutes, after which the rice is taken out and heaped in a dry room. The heap of rice is then covered over with a piece of gunny for three days, when the rice begins to germinate. While the rice is allowed to germinate, a field is ploughed, water is let into it, and a rake then drawn over, with the teeth downwards, to work up the soil and remove any weeds there may be in it. After this, the rake is reversed and drawn on its back over the fields to level it. The field being now ready to receive the sprouting seeds, they are removed to it, and sown broadcast. This mode of sowing is only adopted when from some cause the sowing has been delayed. After the fields have been sown, a man keeps off the birds from the seeds till the crops come out. The third mode of sowing rice is called ronā. A nursery of young crops is first formed, by the rice being sown in a small piece of ground, which is previously ploughed and well manured. When the crops have attained the height of a foot they are dug up, put on sledges, and then taken to the field prepared for them, where they are transplanted. The field is prepared in the same way for the ronā sowing as for the kouruk sowing. The plants are sown about an inch apart from each other. The first weeding takes place about one month after the transplantation of the crops; the second about the same time after the first weeding. A field intended for sugarcane cultivation is utilized by one of the inferior descriptions of rice which comes early to perfection being first sown in it. These crops ripen by the beginning of October. After they are cut, the field is manured, and ploughed with the Bukkhur three times. The Bukkhur is then reversed and drawn over the field to break up the clods of earth and level it. The subsequent processes are to divide the field into beds of a square yard each, to water these beds, to cut the upper parts of canes into pieces of three knots each, and then to put these pieces longitudinally into the divided field. After this the field is irrigated till the rains set in. The thick black canes are sown in January, and are fit to cut in November. The thin country canes are generally perfect in September. A second crop is not raised from the stumps, as in some parts of these Provinces. Manure is only used, and irrigation resorted to, in the cultivation of vegetables, sugarcane, rice, and betel. At the harvest, the crops are cut with sickles, and laborers employed in cutting them receive per diem one and a half pailees (equal to one seer, fourteen chittacks) of grain, either of the description of crops they cut, or of some other

kind of grain. When employed in cutting rice and moong crops, however, they receive different rates of remuneration. For cutting rice crops a laborer receives two pailees (two seers and eight chittacks) per diem, and for cutting moong crops a laborer receives only one pailee. The wages of laborers, in kind, are fixed with reference to the value of the grain cut and the labor of cutting. The labor of cutting rice crops is as great as cutting jowaree, wheat, toor, &c., which are all cut in a stooping posture, and the market value is generally much lower. The labour required to cut moong is comparatively less; the position in which that operation is performed, being a sitting one, is less tiresome. The moong crop, being a creeper, it must be cut sitting. When the treading-floor of the owner of the field is near, the laborers carry the sheaves of corn to it, and stack them there; but when it is at a distance, the owner provides carriage to have them conveyed to it. Toor and castor seeds are beaten off the stalks with a stick, after which the pulse is treaded out of the toor pods by cattle, which walk over them round a pole. The tillee is shaken out of the capsules, as on ripening the capsules open out. All the other kinds of grain are treaded out. After the corn is treaded out, it is stored in small cylindrical granaries, built on platforms, which are supported on slabs of flagstone, and covered with light roofs, thatched with grass, called bundas. They are of various sizes, according to the quantity of grain required to be put into them, but never very large. The grain is put into and removed from these granaries from the top, by lifting the thatched roofs. The cylinders are built on raised platforms of stone, to prevent rats and other vermin from burrowing into them and injuring the corn. Sometimes oblong corn houses are also built. These are called bukharee.

The articles manufactured in the district are native cloth, brass wares, pot-stone wares, cart wheels, and straw and reed baskets. Native cloth is made in Bhundara, Pohonee, Undergaon, Moharee, Sehora, Uddar, and Bhagree. The finest and best description of cloth is manufactured in the town of Pohonee. This cloth is much prized by the higher class of natives, who sometimes pay a couple of hundred rupees for a turband or doputta. Cloth of such high value is now made only to order. The original manufacturers of these excellent descriptions of cloth are said to have come to these parts from Pytum on the Godaverry, and Boorhanpore on the Nerbudda, on an invitation from the Rajah of Nagpore in the early part of the present century. Very fine charkhana cloth (called also jhilmilce) is also manufactured in Pohonee. The cotton thread used in the manufacture of the Pohonee cloths is spun by a low caste of men called Mahars or Dhers. The manufacturers of the cloth are called Koshtees. Red sarees, with different coloured borders, of silk and cotton, are fabricated in Undergaon and Moharee. They are dyed with fast colours, and are made of qualities ranging in value as high as Rs. 25 or 30 for a saree. The town of Bhundara produces turbands and dhotees of a superior quality, manufactured of white cotton thread. These dhotees are generally made with coloured borders. The value of a turband or dhotee is sometimes Rs. 15 or 20. In Sehora, Uddar, and Bhagree, the inferior kinds of native cloth are

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fabricated. The Bhagree khadee cloth is of a stout texture, and noted for its durability. Brass wares are manufactured in the towns of Bhundara and Pohonee, but more extensively in the former. The articles manufactured are cooking utensils and water-pots of all kinds used by natives, lamps, drinking cups, bells, and fountains. These vessels are made by men of the Kussar and Punchal castes. They also work in bell-metal, pewter, and copper. Pot-stone wares are manufactured in the Sakolee sub-division by carpenters and turners. The articles turned are cups, plates, and chillums. They are generally made thick for the village market, as the stone is soft and chalky: but when ordered, very good and light vessels are turned. They are made in Kunheree and Pendree. Cart-wheels are made in Toomsur, and some other towns of this district. Straw and reed baskets are made in different parts of the district. They are coarse and rather clumsy, yet good enough to find ready sale among the natives of these parts, who seldom see better baskets. These baskets are manufactured in the villages of Gond-Oomree and Mohgaon, in the Sakolee sub-division; in Mohgaon and Deoree in the Kampta sub-division; and in a great many villages in pergannah Chandpore of the Bhundara sub-division, by girls and women of the Powar and Kohree castes.

Commerce.

The commerce of the district has received a great impetus since its annexation with the rest of the Province of Nagpore proper, by the British Government. The vastly improved condition now of the Great Eastern Road and of the district communications, an enlightened administration, and a well ordered police, have greatly facilitated traffic. The extinction of the Bhonsla rule has, however, diminished the demand for the superior description of Pohonee cloth; and the rise in the price of grain, together with the simultaneous rise in the price of cotton, has reduced the sale also of the inferior kinds of cloth; but the export of the cloth from this town is still great, having last year amounted to Rs. 50,372. The chief articles imported, are cotton, salt, wheat, rice, oilseeds, metal, and hardware, English piece-goods, tobacco, silk, dyes, and cattle; and the articles most extensively exported, are country cloth, tobacco, and hardware. The direction of the trade is chiefly to and from Nagpore and Raepore by the Great Eastern Road, and by another route through Pallandoor. Also to and from Kamptee by the Toomsur route, and towards Mundla by Hutta and Kampta. Of the articles imported, salt is brought from Berar and the eastern coast; sugar, metal, and spices, from Mirzapore; hardware from Mirzapore and Mundla; Europe cloth and silks from Mirzapore and Bombay. Country silks from Boorhanpore; Kharva cloth from Mhow, and Raneepore in the Jhansi district; wheat and rice from Raepore; and cattle from the Seonee and Mundla districts. Of the articles exported, country cloth is sent from Pohonee, Undhurgaon, Moharee, Bhtndara, and Bhagree, to Nagpore, Poona, and Bombay. Hardware from Bhundara and Pohonee, to Nagpore, Raepore, and Jubbulpore. Articles of traffic are generally conveyed in small country carts and on pack-bullocks.

Though education received no attention or encouragement from the Bhonsla Government, yet the people of the district were not insensible of its value. In the district of Bhundara, which was formerly called the Wyngunga district, there were no less than 55 Mahratta and Persian private schools, numbering in the aggregate 452 pupils, of whom 45 were taught the Persian language, and the rest Mahratti. 28 of these schools were established in the large towns, and 27 in the villages. The teachers were Brahmins, or Vidoors. (The latter are illegitimate descendants of Brahmins.) The teachers were paid a sum varying from two annas to one rupee per mensem by the parents of each pupil, according to their means. There are now 34 Government schools, all of which have been established within the last 4 years. One of these, which is at the head-quarters of the district, is called the zillah school, 7 are in the large cities, and are termed town schools, 25 are in villages, and are styled village schools, and one is a female school in the town of Bhundara. Many of the town and village schools which were formerly maintained by denizens of the towns and villages served as foundations for some of the existing institutions on the introduction of the present system of education. In addition to these Government institutions, there are 22 indigenous or private schools; 19 of which are Mahratta, and 3 Urdu. These schools afford instruction to 2,446 children, of whom 2,046 are boys and 40 girls. 31 of the boys are taught English, 102 are taught Urdu, and 2,273 Mahratti. All the girls are also taught Mahratti. Neat and commodious school-houses have now been built for the children; and efficient teachers employed to educate them. A girl's school has just been built in Bhundara by Yadoo Rao Panday, one of the principal bankers of the town. The Brahmin and Vidoor teachers, who educated the children under the former Government, were not scholars; but men who endeavoured to get a living by keeping up schools. Education, before the establishment of the Government schools, was generally carried so far as might qualify each individual to follow his profession. The educational establishment of the district consists now of a District inspector, 34 Masters, and 9 Assistant masters. The annual cost of schools amounts to Rs. 8,808. Of this sum, Rs. 4,356 are paid from the imperial revenues; Rs. 3,864 from the school cess fund; and Rs. 528 from the local funds. The management is conducted through local committees, composed of respectable natives of the towns and villages in which the schools are established.

Of the entire area of the district, about 2,279 square miles, or nearly one-third, is covered with jungle. The largest tract of forest land lies along the north of the district, on the Mundla borders, and thence extends down the whole of the eastern boundary. This jungle contains some thousands of valuable timber trees, and bamboos. There are two descriptions of the latter. The tall bamboo, measuring from 50 to 60 feet in length, and the common country bamboo from 15 to 20 feet in length. The best timber trees are generally to be found in the most inaccessible parts of the hills. The smaller jungles are in parts of the middle of the district, and in the Chandpore pergannah.

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Schools.

Forests.

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The valuable timber trees are,—

1. *Tectona grandis* (Teak) called Sayuh in this district, and Sagaon in other parts.
2. *Pterocarpus marsupium*, called Bewla in this district, and in other parts Bejeysal.
3. *Dalbergia latifolia*, called Sirus in this district, and in other parts Sheshum.
4. *Pentoptera glabra*, called Eyne in this district, and in other parts Saj.
5. *Viospyros ebenum*, called Taimroon in this district, and in other parts Tendoo.
6. *Nancleris cordifolia*, called Huldee in this district, and in other parts Hurdooa.
7. *Conocarpus latifolia*, Dhoura.
8. *Lagerstræmia parviflora*, Sendee, called also Sehma in this district, and in other parts Kuleea Seja.
9. *Bassia latifolia*, called Moha in this district, and in other parts Mhowa.

These jungles also yield gum, medicinal fruits and nuts, edible fruits, lac and honey. The gums considered the best for their adhesive qualities and for edible purposes, are those exuded by the Eyne or Saj, Dhowra, and Pullas or Cheota. The Pullas tree is also called Dhak in other parts. The medicinal fruits are the Hurra (*myrobalan*), Buhera (*belleric myrobalan*), Byberung (a medicinal seed, like a black pepper-corn), and Bel (*oratva*), and nut, koochla (*nux vomica*), and Bhillawan (*semicarpus anacardium*). The fruits which are sold in the markets from jungle trees, and which the poorer class of natives eat, are the Tendoo, Uchar, or Chironjee (fruit of the *Chirounia sapida*), Aonla (fruit of the *phyllanthus emblica*), Bhillawan (fruit of the *semicarpus anacardium*), Mhowa (*bassia latifolia*), Plum, Corinda, Kuwut or Kytha, (fruit of the *feronia elephantum*), Bel (*cralæva*), custard apple, Oomur, (*ficus glomerata*), and Jamun (fruit of the *calyptrotheces caryophylatifolia*). Lac is produced on the Plum, Pullas (*butea frondosa*), Peepur or Peepul (*ficus religiosa*), and the Peepree (the small leafed Peepur) trees.

Bees settle on all descriptions of trees, and on rocks, where they form their hives, and gather honey. The bees are driven off their combs with a piece of stick, and then the combs are taken possession of. The man who wishes to take down a comb protects himself from the attacks of the bees with a blanket, which he covers over his body. The men who generally take down honeycombs, and gather other jungle produce, are Gonds. The forest extending from north to south of the eastern borders of this district is situated in the sub-divisions of Kampta and Sakolee. The duties levied on timber and forest

produce is called *ranbah*. None of the forests of the district have been reserved for direct management by the Forest department, owing to the greater part being situated in Zemindaree estates, but they are under the management of the Deputy Commissioner, and the right to collect their minor produce is annually firmed out.

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The Zemindaree estates are situated near the western limits of the district, from the left bank of the Wyngunga river on the north, to the Chanda boundary on the south. There are 34 such estates ; 17 of these estates are in the Kampta and Lanjee pergunnahs of Tehseel Kampta, and 17 in the Sangurhee and Pertabgurh pergunnahs of Tehseel Sakolee. The Zemindarees are, Amgaon, Arjoonee, Bhadra or Baihla, Bhanpore, Binjlee, Burgaon, Cheezgurh, Chiklee, Chowureea, Dangorice, Dasgaon, Dowah, Dullee, Gond Oonree, Huttâ, Jamree, Kampta, Keenhee, Khijree, Khyree, Kirnapore, Kunharpore, Kururgaon, Malagaon, Nunsurree, Oonree of pergunnah Pertabgurh, Poorara, Pulkhaira, Purusgaon, Purrusgaon, Rajoulee, Salee Tekree, Terkheree, and Toormapooree. The most important and extensive of these estates are those of Kampta and Hutta, which were originally granted by Rughojee I. Rajah of Nagpore, to an ancestor of present Zemindar of Kirnapore, named Ram Patel, a Koonbee by caste, to bring into cultivation. The Zemindars were then, from the nature of their tenures, Talookadars. The two estates of Kampta and Hutta, together with Amgaon, Binjlee, Pulkhaira,, Poorara, and Terkheree Mulpooree, formed the Kampta Zemindaree till A. D. 1856. Nurbud Patel, a Lodhee by caste, obtained the Talooka on its confiscation, in 1818, from Chimna Patel, nephew of Ram Patel, for rebellion against the Government. The Zemindars of Kampta and Hutta were styled Patels till A. D. 1843. The Hutta Talooka was granted by Nurbud Patel to his brother Sookul Patel, since which time it has been held distinct from Kampta, but continued in subordination to the elder branch of the family till A. D. 1856. The Amgaon Talooka was granted somewhat earlier by Gondoo Patel, brother of Ram Patel, from the original Talookdaree, but from Sunnuds forthcoming, it appears that that event took place more than 70 years ago. The Pulkhaira estate was granted by Chimna Patel, nephew of Ram Patel, and third possessor of the Kampta Talookdaree, to his nephew Deo Patel. There is no record as to when, and by whom, the Poorara estate was sliced off from that of Kampta. The Terkheree Mulpooree estate is said to have been granted in A. D. 1815, by Rughojee II., to the father of the present holder. The Kirnapore, Bhadra, and Dasgaon estates are the next in importance, and the others are small Zemindarees, but of more ancient origin. Ten years after Chimna Patel lost the Kampta Talooka, by rebellion, he received the Kirnapore Talooka, which has ever since been held by his family. The whole of these Zemindarees comprise an area of 2,522 square miles, which are formed into 912 villages, and contain a population of 242,908 souls, each square mile supporting, on an average, 96. The number of houses in these estates is 74,023. The proportion of area under tillage is about one-fifth. The rest is composed of culturable waste, jungle and hill. A brief account of each Zemindaree is given below.

This estate originally formed part of that of Kampta. It consists of 53 villages, embracing an area of 146 square miles, of which 47

Amgaon.

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Arjoonee. This is a wild estate, consisting of 10 villages, situated 12 miles east of Sakolee. It has an area of 13,889 acres, of which 2,633 are cultivated, 2,238 persons inhabit the estate, and they live in 763 houses. The Government demand is fixed at Rs. 687. It appears on enquiry that this estate was given to the ancestor of the present holder, on condition of his bringing the waste lands under cultivation. A Sunnud dated A. D. 1847 is in existence, which confers the Zemindaree on the then holder. This Sunnud was granted by the Rajah of Nagpore.

Bhadra. This Zemindaree is comprised of 66 villages, the area of which is 128 square miles, and it has a population of 16,293 souls, inhabiting 5,682 houses. Of the area mentioned 36 square miles are under tillage. The revenue demand on the estate is Rs. 4,116. The estate was given by the Seobadar of Lanjee at the end of the last century, in Zemindaree tenure, to Jynodeen Khan Puthan, whose family still retains possession of it. The Zemindar resides in Baila, one of the villages of the Talooka. Baila is situated on the southern boundary of the Lanjee Pergunnah, near the eastern limits of the district.

Bhanpore. This is a jungly estate, composed of 46 villages, with an area of 206 square miles, of which a trifle over 5 square miles only are under tillage. The estate contains a population of 2,476 souls, inhabiting 761 houses. The Government revenue fixed on it is Rs. 618. This Zemindaree is said to have been granted to the ancestors of the present occupant by the Gond Rajah of Mundla under similar conditions as those on which the Salce Tekree estate was granted. No Sunnud regarding the original grant is in existence, but on Gujraj Singh's death, in A. D. 1850, the Rajah of Nagpore issued a letter of injunction installing Moorut Singh and Keerut Singh in the Zemindaree. Bhanpore is situated on the hills to the north-eastern corner of the Lanjee Pergunnah. The present Zemindar is *Musst. Jhireea Thakorain.

Binjlee. This Zemindaree consists of 48 villages, with an area of 140 square miles, of which 21 are under plough. It has a population of 8,133 souls. The number of houses in this estate is 2,898. The Zemindaree is said to have been first given in farm to Khonda by Chimnajee Bhonslah, a brother of Rughjee II. but from 2 Sunnuds forthcoming it appears that it was given on a 3 years' lease to him by the Talookadar of Kampta. In A. D. 1842, the estate was constituted a Zemindaree. The estate is now in the possession of Rutun Singh, who is a Lodhi by caste. The Government demand on it is Rs. 2,735.

Burgaon. This is a small estate, and consists of one village only, possessing an area of 1,109 acres, of which 641 acres are under plough, 406 acres

are culturable waste, and the residue are unculturable. The village is inhabited by 335 persons, who, with their cattle and grain, occupy 124 houses. From an enquiry instituted by Captain Wilkinson in A. D. 1830 it appears that about 60 years previously the estate was granted in Zemindaree tenure to the father of the holder for bravery evinced in killing a Cheetah. The Zemindar is said to have possessed the powers and privileges enjoyed by other Zemindars. The present Zemindar, Binee Singh, pays a revenue of Rs. 273 on the estate.

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This is a wild and extensive estate situated near the south-eastern borders of the district, on the road leading from Sahangurree by the Nyagaon lake, to the Chanda district. The area is 237 square miles, of which $21\frac{1}{2}$ square miles are cultivated, the rest consists of culturable waste and barren hill and jungle lands. The population numbers 8,994 inhabitants, who, with their cattle and grain, occupy 2,524 houses, which have been built on the estate. The Government demand is fixed at Rs. 2,820. The present holder of this Zemindaree states that it was given to his ancestor, Roujee, in consideration of assistance rendered by him against the Gonds. A Sunnud dated A. D. 1851, granted by the late Rajah of Nagpore, is in existence, conferring the Zemindaree upon Nursing on the death of his father Donshah. Injunctions are in existence addressed by Captain Wilkinson, Superintendent of affairs, to the "Zemindar" of Cheezgurh. One dated A. D. 1826 gives him the power to fine up to 5 rupees. This is a very ancient holding.

Cheezgurh.

This is an estate composed of 2 villages, but with a considerably smaller area than that of the Khujree estate, the area being only 2,390 acres, of which 1,219 are under plough. The rest are culturable waste and barren lands. There are 298 houses on it, which are occupied by 839 persons. The Government revenue is fixed at Rs. 282. The holder of this Zemindaree asserts that his ancestor obtained this estate from Rughojee I. on condition of keeping the part of the country where it is situated quiet, and apprehending criminals. An order of the late Rajah, dated A. D. 1848, confirming a person named Jusso in the Zemindaree, is in existence. The estate is situated to the south of the Great Eastern Road, about 9 miles south-east of Sakolee.

Chiklee.

This Zemindaree consists of 7 villages, possessing an area of nearly 25 square miles. It is densely wooded, having only 705 acres of land under cultivation. The population consists of 409 souls, who occupy 98 houses, which are built on the estate. The revenue demand fixed on the estate is 25 rupees. From the record of an enquiry made in A. D. 1830, by Captain Wilkinson, it appears that the then holder stated that the villages comprising the estate were given him by Balajee Punth, Kumdasdar of Lanjee, in Zemindaree tenure, to guard the passes leading to Mundla. No Sunnud had ever been given to the holder, but the tenure has always been included in the Zemindaree list. The name of the present holder is Soorut Singh.

Chowureea.

This is a small estate, consisting of 1,905 acres of land, of which 1,234 acres are under plough. There are 189 houses on it, which are occupied by 735 souls, and their oxen and grain. The revenue

Dangorlee.

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Dasgaon. This estate is situated to the north-west of the Kampta Pergunnah, on the left bank of the River Wyngunga. It consists of 14 highly cultivated villages, measuring 30 square miles, of which 20 are under plough. The population numbers 8,877 souls, who dwell with their cattle in 2,627 houses built in the villages. The estate is stated to have been originally granted to Gunna Patel, who died in A. D. 1816. In A. D. 1817 a Sunnud was granted by the Rajah of Nagpore to his successor Hoolka Patel, in which the tenure is termed a Zemindaree. Hoolka died in A. D. 1861. His widow Moosumat Heeroo Bai then came into possession and retained it till she was murdered in August 1864. The revenue demand on the estate is Rs. 3,524.

Dowah. This estate is made up of 12 villages with an aggregate area of 26 square miles, of which 4,709 acres are under tillage. The population consists of 4,192 souls, who occupy 1,271 houses. The Zemindar pays a revenue of Rs. 1,070 to Government; the holder of the estate asserts that his ancestor obtained it on condition of improving it and destroying wild beasts. The family cannot produce an original Sunnud, but there is no doubt that the Zemindaree is an ancient one. A Sunnud, dated A. D. 1775, granted by Rugojee I., stating that the estate belonged to the holder's ancestors, and that he consequently permitted it to continue with him on the same terms, is forthcoming. The estate is mentioned in the Sunnud as a Zemindaree. The name of the present holder is Mohun.

Dullee. This is an extensively wild estate, composed of 17 villages situated on the Great Eastern Road, about midway between Sakolee and the eastern borders of the district. The area is 33,506 acres, or nearly 53 square miles, of which 5½ acres are under cultivation. The residue are culturable waste and barren lands; 858 houses have been built on the estate and are inhabited by 2,524 persons. The Government demand is fixed at Rs. 351. It is stated by the holder of the estate that Rajah Nizam Shah of Mundla granted it to his ancestor Sallo, on condition of his maintaining the peace and reclaiming the extensive wastes appertaining to the Zemindaree. The original Sunnud conferring the estate is not forthcoming, nor is there any other Sunnud referring to it in existence. Several injunctions written by the Superintendent of affairs, between A. D. 1820 and 1830, and addressed to the "Zemindar," however, exist. There is no doubt that the holding is an ancient one, and it has always been included in the list of Zemindarees of the district.

Gond-Oomree. This estate is formed of 10 villages, and contains much jungle and waste land. The area is 17,715 acres, of which 2,862 only are

cultivated. The population numbers 2,237 souls, who possess 886 houses. The Government Revenue fixed on the estate is Rs. 1,178. The present holder of this estate asserts that it was given to his ancestor on condition of bringing the waste lands under cultivation. A Sunnud granted by Rughojee I., dated A. D. 1775, is in existence. This Sunnud confers the estate on Shunker. Another Sunnud given by the late Rajah dated A. D. 1848, is likewise in existence conferring the "Zemindaree" on Nathoo and Goberdhun.

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This estate is comprised of 74 villages. The area is 135 square miles, of which 66 square miles are under cultivation. The population consists of 27,210 souls, inhabiting 5,497 houses. Nerbud Patel, who acquired the estate, gave it to his brother Sookul Patel, who is still living. On Sookul's application, in A. D. 1843, his son Gunput Rao, was recognized as the holder of it. In the same year, the estate is said to have been conferred on Gunput Rao, in Zemindaree tenure for ever, on the payment of a nazarana of Rs. 15,000 to the Rajah, but it continued to be attached to the Kampta Zemindaree till A. D. 1856. Gunput Rao still holds the estate. He is an intelligent man, and is an Honorary Magistrate invested with the powers of a Subordinate Magistrate of the 2nd class. The revenue fixed on the estate is Rs. 15,831.

Hutta.

The estate is made up of 4 villages, with an aggregate area of 9,811 acres, of which only 707 are cultivated, it is situated east of the Nyagaon Lake; 190 houses have been built on it, which are occupied by 531 persons. The Government demand is Rupees 203. The holder of this Zemindaree states that the estate was given to his ancestor by Rajah Nizam Shah about 300 years ago, on condition that the wastes were brought under cultivation. A Sunnud given by Rughojee I., dated A. D. 1775, giving the estate to Lall-Shah, Zemindar, is in existence. The revenue demand at that time was fixed at rupees 17; it now stands at the figure stated above.

Jamree.

This Zemindaree is composed of 207 villages, 168 of which is situated in the Kampta Pergunnah, and 39 in the Ambagurh Pergunnah. The Zemindar resides in the village of Moordurra, which is situated on the left bank of the Wyngunga river, to the north of the Ambagurh or Bhundara Tehscelee circle. He formerly resided in Kampta. The villages of the Zemindaree are situated to the north and east of Moordurra. This estate was granted to the original holder by Rughojee I., above a century ago, to bring it into cultivation. The first possessor was Ram Patel, a Koonbee by caste, whose descendants held the estate till Chimna Patel, his nephew, rebelled against the Rajah's Government, in A. D. 1818, and lost it by confiscation, when the estate was granted to Nerbud Patel, a Lodhee, who had held the Wurud Talooka three years previously, and was withal a loyal adherent of the Government. The Wurud Talooka formed then a part of the Kampta Zemindaree. The present occupant, Yeshwunt Rao, is the grand-son of Nerbud Patel. On succeeding to the estate he came also into possession of 4 lakhs of rupees, which his father Gudjee left him on his death in A. D. 1838. In A. D. 1843 Yeshwunt Rao, on presenting a nazarana of half a lakh of Rupees, had a Sunnud granted him by the Rajah,

Kampta.

BHUNDARA. conferring on him the estate, in Zemindaree tenure. Up to this time the family held it on a tenure similar to that of a Talookdarce holding. On the presentation of a further nazaranee of 20,000 rupees the privilege of using a Palankeen, &c. was allowed him, and the revenue demand on him was reduced from Rs. 1,12,607-12-6 to Rs. 95,000. Yeshwunt Rao is an Honorary Magistrate, with powers of a Subordinate Magistrate of the 2nd class. The estate is about 503 square miles; it has a population of 93,752 souls, and 197 square miles of the area is under cultivation. The villages of this Zemindaree contain 29,610 houses. The revenue demand on it is Rs. 46,799.

Keenhee. This estate, which is composed of 65 villages, is situated on the hills to the east of the district. The larger portion of the lands is covered with dense jungle, the area under cultivation being only 11 square miles, while that of the entire estate is 194 square miles. There is 1,601 houses on the estate, which are inhabited by 4,718 souls. On an enquiry instituted by Captain Wilkinson regarding this tenure, in A. D. 1836, the holder of the estate stated that it was granted to his ancestor, for his own maintenance, and the preservation of peace, in that part of the country. In A. D. 1847 a Purwanah was issued by the Subadar to the Kumasdar, professing to be founded on an injunction from the Rajah, permitting Soorut Singh, who had presented a nazar, to succeed to the Zemindaree, held by his late father. The present holder is Soorut Singh, and the revenue paid by him is rupees 542.

Khujree. This estate is only comprised of 2 villages, possessing an area of 4,359 acres, of which 1,600 acres are cultivated. 1,259 persons reside on this estate, and they live in 370 houses. The Government revenue is fixed at Rs. 230. The holder of this Zemindaree asserts that the estate was given to his ancestor, on condition of destroying wild beasts, and bringing the waste lands under tillage. The Sunud, dated A. D. 1775, given by Rughojee I., is in existence, declaring the estate had belonged for a long time to one Govind Rao's ancestor, and conferring it upon him in Zemindaree, at an assessment of Rs. 16, which has now reached the figure mentioned above.

Khyree. This is a small estate, consisting of 4 villages, with an aggregate area of 8,848 acres, of which 679 only are under plough; 164 houses have been built on the estate, which are inhabited by 558 souls. The Government demand on the Zemindar is fixed at Rs. 300. The present holder of this Zemindaree states that the estate was given to his ancestor by one of the old Gond Rajahs, for bravery evinced in killing wild beasts. A Sunnud exists, dated A. D. 1775, given by Rughojee I., stating the estate had belonged to Seo's ancestors before, and conferring it upon him at a revenue of Rs. 38, which has gradually risen to its present figure of Rs. 300.

Kirnapore. This is an excellent estate, composed of 24 villages, and aggregating an area of 39 square miles, 25 of which are under cultivation. The population numbers 21,251 souls who have 3,360 houses. The Government demand on the estate is Rs. 5,115. This Talooka was given to Chimna Patel, the original grantee, in A. D. 1828. 10 years after he lost the Kampta Talooka by rebellion against the Nagpore Government.

The nature of this estate was not defined till A. D. 1846, when the Rajah of Nagpore, in a Sunnud granted to Kondoo Bapoo, the occupant at the time, and styled it as a Zemindaree. The present Zemindar is Ram Chundra Bhao, the son of Kondoo. Kirnapore is situated 9 miles north of Kampta.

BHUNDARA.

This is a small estate composed of only the village of Kunhurgaon, which has an area of 1,404 acres, 106 being under plough. It has a population of 64 souls, who occupy 15 houses built on the estate. The Government revenue is fixed at Rs. 77. The present holder of this Zemindaree states that the estate was given to his ancestor Bharut Rao, eight generations ago, for having killed 120 tigers. No Sunnud exists. Takeeds addressed to Wakul by Captain Wilkinson in A. D. 1822 and 1826, conferred on him the privilege of fining up to 5 rupees and of levying a tax on the re-marriage of widows up to 15 rupees. This estate has no doubt, been held by the family for a long time. The holder was recognized as a "Zemindar" during the former English rule or Superintendence.

Kunhurgaon.

This is a small estate, of only 1 village, lying on the extreme south of the district, about 4 miles east of the Choolbund river. The area is 1,208 acres, of which 128 only are under tillage. The village consists of a group of 23 houses, which are inhabited by 65 souls. The Government demand is fixed at Rs. 96. It appears that the present holder of this Zemindaree stated that his ancestor was Syud Meer, son of Syud Muthun, who served in the fort of Pertabgurh and was killed in an affair with dacoits. No Sunnud, or other document connected with this village exists. Syud Kondoo was some time in prison in the late Rajah's reign on suspicion of being implicated in the crime of dacoity. The estate however is on the list of "Zemindars," and the holder is possessed of all the privileges of a Zemindar. Syud Hunccef has been temporarily put in possession.

Kurrurgaon.

This estate is composed of 14 villages, aggregating an area of nearly 31 square miles, of which 2,181 acres, or nearly $3\frac{1}{2}$ square miles, are cultivated, the rest are jungle and waste lands. 334 houses in the 14 villages form the residence of the inhabitants, who number 3,264 souls. The Government revenue fixed on this estate is rupees 1,569. It is stated by the present holder that Bukht Boolund, the Gond Rajah of Deogurh, gave the estate to his ancestor for assistance rendered him in his military expeditions. A Sunnud, dated 1156 Fusli (corresponding with A. D. 1746,) given by one Raghojee Kurandea, (probably Commander of the Force) is in existence, conferring the estate on Guj Sing in Mokassa tenure, and stating that the estate had been in the family for a long time. Another order of the Pertabgurh Kumashdar, dated 1176 Fusli (corresponding with A. D. 1766), addressed to Purrusram, conferring on him the privilege of levying *khoont*, on the condition of serving with five men when called upon, is also forthcoming. Some Takeeds addressed to the Zemindar by Captain Wilkinson in A. D. 1822 and 1826, are moreover in existence conferring the privilege on him of fining up to 5 rupees, and levying a tax up to 15 rupees upon widows re-marrying. A Sunnud, dated Fusli 1185, corresponding with A. D. 1775, from Rughojee I., addressed to Purrusram, stating that the

Mahagaon.

BHUNDARA. estate had been in the family and conferring upon him the Zemindaree at a Tukolee of Rs. 500, further exists. Another Sunnud, dated Fusli 1250 (corresponding with A. D. 1840) granted by the late Rajah of Nagpore, conferring the estate upon Kevulram, according to "the rule of primogeniture," is likewise forthcoming. This estate is situated on the southern boundary of the district.

Nunsuree. This estate is situated about 9 miles south-east of Kampta, near the Baug river. It is formed of 8 villages, containing 8,530 acres of land, of which 5,116 acres are under plough. It has a population of 3,549 souls, who possess 1,323 houses, built on the estate. The Government demand is 487 rupees. From an enquiry instituted by Captain Wilkinson in A. D. 1830, it appears that Umbajee Nana, Kumasdor of Lanjee, gave the estate to his brother Sheoram Punt, by an order of the Nagpore Government. Sheoram Punt received a Putta, which is not forthcoming. The estate is said to have been cultivated before it came into the Zemindar's possession. The name of the present holder is Radha Bai.

Omrree. This estate consists of 10 villages, having an aggregate area of nearly 17 square miles, of which 1636 acres, or a little over 2½ square miles, are under tillage. The population numbers 1,309 souls, who live in 170 houses, which have been built on the estate. Rupees 584 have been assessed as the Government revenue on the estate. This Zemindaree it is said was granted to the ancestor of the present holder, for his proficiency in the art of wrestling. A Sunnud granted by Rughojee I. to Najookrarn, dated 1185 Fusli, mentioning that the estate had been given to him long before, on the condition of his serving in the Pertabgurh Fort with 5 men, and conferring it again on him free of all revenue demand. Between that time and A. D. 1819, it appears that a juma of rupees 630-11-0 was imposed. Two injunctions written by Captain Wilkinson, Superintendent of affairs, exist; one dated A. D. 1822, and the other 1826, addressed to the Zemindar of Omrree, conferring on him the privilege of levying a tax on the re-marriage of widows, up to 15 rupees and of fining in petty offences up to 5 rupees.

Poorara. This is a small Zemindaree, consisting of 6 villages, which are situated on the Baug river, near the south-eastern confines of the district. The area is 39 square miles, 7 of which only are broken by the plough. It has a population of 3,082 souls, who possess 1,032 houses. The Government demand on the estate is Rs. 412. This estate is said to have been granted to the present family by Chimnajee Bhonsla, in the reign of Rughojee II., Rajah of Nagpore. No record exists as to the exact nature of the holder's tenure. The name of the present Zemindar is Luhoo.

Pulkhaira. This estate is formed of 12 villages, which comprehend an area of 50 square miles, 13 being under cultivation. It has a population of 5,841 souls, inhabiting 1,881 houses on the estate. The villages are situated near the north-east boundary of the Sahangeree Per-gunnuh, about 3 miles from the source of the Pangolee river. It was formerly a part of the Kampta Talooka, and was granted by Chimna Patel to his nephew Deo Patel, who is a Koonbee by caste.

This Zemindaree, like those of Amgaon, Binjlee and Hutta, remained a dependency of Kampta, till A. D. 1856. In 1819 the estate was styled a Zemindaree by the Nagpore Rajah in a letter relative to a dispute concerning it, between the family of the holder. The revenue fixed on the estate is Rs. 2,635. The name of the present Zemindar is Surwun.

BHUNDARA.
Pulkharia.

This is an extremely wild estate, consisting of 14 villages, situated in the hilly tracts, 7 miles east of the extensive Nowagaon lake. It is 134 square miles in extent; of which about 1½ square mile only is under cultivation. As the cultivated area, so is the population small, being 803 souls. The inhabitants possess 131 houses. Tukharam, the Zemindar, pays Rs. 161 to Government. The present holder of this Zemindaree states that the estate was given to his ancestor, Durdee Thakoor, by one of the ancient Gond Rajahs, for assistance given in apprehending criminals. An order dated Fusli 1187, A. D. 1777 exists, issued by the Pertabgurh Kumasdar, conferring the estate on the possessor in Mokassa tenure. Another Sunnud, granted by Rughoojee I., in Fusli 1185, (corresponding with A. D. 1775) is forthcoming, wherein it is mentioned that the estate is given in "Zemindaree," and imposing a Tukolee (revenue demand) of 10 rupees. On the death of Nowul Shah the estate was transferred to Sakharam, with the sanction of the Commissioner, communicated in letter No. 24, dated 4th September 1858.

This is a wild estate, consisting of 2 villages, situated 9 miles south-east of Sakolee. The area is 1,834 acres, of which 730 only are cultivated. 140 houses are built on the estate by the inhabitants, who number 513 souls. The Government demand is fixed at 159 rupees. The present holder represents that this estate was given to his ancestor Heeraram by Rajah Nizam Shah of Mundla, for aiding him in battle. A Sunnud is in existence, dated 1185 Fusli (A. D. 1775) given by Rughoojee I., to the effect that the estate had belonged to the ancestor of the holder at a revenue demand of Rs. 22. It is therein called a Zemindaree; there is also an injunction by Jauojee, who succeeded Rughoojee I., telling him to loot the Peshwa's army.

Purrusgaon.

The estate consists of 13 villages, possessing an area of nearly 43 square miles, of which only 1½ mile is under cultivation. 204 houses have been built on the estate, which are inhabited by 663 residents. The Government revenue is fixed at 103 rupees. The holder of this Zemindaree asserts that the estate was given to his ancestors, Singhees Khan and Kootub Khan, for assistance rendered by them against the Gonds. No Sunnud is, however, forthcoming to this effect. A Sunnud, in the name of Wahed Khan, exists, given by Raghojee I., in Fusli 1185 (corresponding with A. D. 1775) wherein it is stated that the estate had been in the family for many years, and that it has therefore been conferred upon him in Mokassa tenure. Two other Sunnuds also exist, one from the Kumasdar, dated 1218 Fusli (corresponding with A. D. 1808) and the other granted by the late Rajah, dated 1261 Fusli (A. D. 1851). The former confers the estate upon Ameen Khan at a Jumma of Rs. 75, and the latter, bestowing the Zemindaree upon Secunder Khan, on the presentation of a nuzzur of 200 rupees.

Rajolee.

BHUNDARA.**Salehtekree.**

This estate consists of 66 wild villages, situated on the hills to the east of Lanjee. It is poorly inhabited, the population numbering 2,342 souls, who are scattered over an extensive area of 289 square miles. The area brought under cultivation is also small, the quantity being about 6 square miles. The estate is said to be an old one in the family. It is stated to have been granted for service rendered in preventing dacoities, and in guarding the Passes leading to the hills. No record exists as to the nature of this holding. An enquiry made by Captain Wilkinson about A. D. 1830, elicited that they had been lost on the murder of Poun Singh's father. At the time of the enquiry Paun Singh held the estate. The Government demand on the estate is Rs. 288. Humeer Singh is the present Zemindar.

**Terkheree
Mulpooree.**

Seven villages form this estate. The area is about 15 square miles, of which 4 are under cultivation; 469 houses have been constructed on the estate, which are inhabited by a population of 1,351 souls. The holder is assessed with a revenue of Rs. 350. The present family is said to have obtained possession of the estate in A. D. 1815 from Rajah Rughoojee II., of Nagpore. The original grantee was Pandoo Patel, who was a Powar by caste. His son Kurnoo now holds the estate. The nature of this tenure, owing to the absence of documentary evidence, is not clear. Terkheree is situated to the east of the Kampta Pergunnah, near the eastern boundary of the district and Mulpooree to the west of the Kampta Pergunnah at the point where the Sahangree and Tirora Pergunnahs meet it.

**Toormapoor-
ree.**

This estate is made up of 7 villages, which have an aggregate area of 8,590 acres, 1,109 acres are under tillage, the rest are culturable waste and barren land. The population consists of 880 souls, who, with their cattle, occupy 282 houses, which are built on it. The present holder of this Zemindaree states that Raheem Shah, Rajah of Mundla, gave him the estate on condition of reclaiming the wastes. A Sunnud given by Raheem Shah, dated the year Pramadhi, corresponding with A. D. 1732, is in existence, conferring the estate in Mokassa on Kondjee at an assessment of rupees 100. A subsequent Sunnud, dated 1190 Fusli (A. D. 1780), fixes the demand at rupees 225. A third Sunnud granted by Rughoojee I. confers the estate on Eshwunt Rao in Zemindaree, as it had been in the possession of his family for a long time. This Sunnud fixes the demand at 100 rupees. The Estate is situated 5 miles north of Sakolee.

**Tradition
and
History.**

Of the earlier history of this District nothing is known; but tradition says that the country was visited by some great calamity at a remote period, when a tribe of men called Gowlees, or Gowlurs, overran and conquered it. The Gowlees are a pastoral and wandering race of men, who encamp in the jungles and seldom visit villages, except to sell their cattle, dispose of the produce of the dairy, or purchase provisions. There is a tradition that the country was at one time under the Mahomedan Princes of the Deccan—but at the end of the seventeenth century it certainly belonged to the Gond Rajah of Deogurh. Bukht Booland, the founder of this dynasty, turned Mahomedan in order to obtain the support of Aurungzebe. Under his rule a number of Lodhees, Rajpoets, Powars, Kohrees and Koonbees, were attract-

ed into and settled in the District, and the villages in the vicinity of the Wyngunga, especially Pohnee, improved in tillage, from the industry and agricultural skill introduced by them. During this Chief's reign the country acquired also an accession of men of the Kurar caste. The Mahratta Chief, Rughojee I., obtained the country about 1733 A. D., but it was not formally administered from Nagpore until 1743. Under the Bhonslas a number of the commercial and soldier classes, Marwarrees, Uggurwarries, Lingaits, and Mahratta Koonbees, came and established themselves in the district. When Appa Sahib's intrigues brought on hostilities with the British in 1817 A. D. the Ladies of his Pataee, the jewels and other valuable effects, were sent by him for security to Bhundara, whence they were escorted back to Nagpore by the British troops after surrender of the city of Nagpore and the Artillery. In 1818 A. D. Chimna Patel, Zemindar of the Kampta and Wurrud Talookas, rebelled against the Government, when Captain Gordon was deputed to Kampta, where he remained for three or four months, and after quelling the disturbance returned to Nagpore. In the same year Captain Wilkinson was appointed Superintendent of the District, and proceeded to Kampta, where he remained till the end of 1820, A. D. and then removed to Bhundara. Captain Wilkinson continued in Bhundara till A. D. 1830, when Rajah Rughojee III. having attained his majority, the management of the country was made over to him. Rajah Rughojee III. governed the country till his death in A. D. 1853. On the 11th October 1854 Captain C. Elliot was appointed Deputy Commissioner of the District, and no incident worthy of note has occurred since. The District continued perfectly tranquil even during the prevalence of the general rebellion in 1857 and 1858. Three Companies of Infantry and a small body of horsemen were stationed at Bhundara for the protection of the District, till A. D. 1860, since which time the District Police is the only armed force which has been maintained here.

Under the Gond dynasty, the country was divided into convenient portions called Pergunnahs, all varying in the number of villages allotted to them, and in the aggregate amount of revenue demandable therefrom. These sub-divisions were managed by officials called Hoddars, Desmooks, and Despandeas. These offices were abolished under the Marhatta Government; and Kumashdars, Phurnuyses and Burar Pandias substituted. The Kumashdar was the head fiscal officer of the sub-division. An estimate of the Annual Receipts and Disbursements of each Pergunnah was furnished him in the month of August, according to which he regulated his demands. One or more villages were managed by a Patel, who had a Kotwar and Pandia to assist him. The Patel fixed and collected the rents payable by the tenants. The Patee of a village was neither hereditary nor saleable. The sons of Patels were merely allowed to succeed to the villages held by their father, from sufferance, or by a new appointment from Government. Leases were only given to tenants for one year at a time, the rent being liable to variation annually. The lands were divided into fields, each having a separate name, by which it was recorded in the village accounts. The lands were let for what they would fetch. Settlements between the Patels and tenants were made at the commencement of the agricultural year. In these settlements the Patel acted as the

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Revenue Administration

BHUNDARA.

Government Agent. A paper was maintained in each village called the Lagwan, which showed in detail the rents of the tenants, as concluded for the season. The Revenue was divided into two portions; the first payable in one-third portions, in the months of September, October, and November; and the other in halves, in the months of February and March. From the beginning of the Marhatta power, till A. D. 1792, the country prospered under a fair revenue demand, but thenceforward the oppressive assessments, receipts of large nuzzurs, and the realization of the rents in advance, disturbed the minds of the people, and brought irretrievable embarrassments on the Patels and tenants, and also caused much land to be thrown out of cultivation. On the succession of Rugojee III. to the Musnud, his minority induced the British Government to assume the management of his country, when a new apportionment of the country was made into convenient divisions, and some slight changes were made in the establishments of the Subordinate Revenue Offices. This district, then called the Wyngunga District, was divided into 13 Pergunnahs. Captain Wilkinson was appointed Superintendent of the District, and under him a Kumashdar was appointed to each sub-division.

The settlement of the villages, during the time the country was under British Government management, was made in two ways—one, by fixing a Jumma on the entire Pergunnah, which the Patels had to pay, and this Jumma was distributed by them afterwards; and the other, by making the settlement with the Patels individually for each village, without previously fixing the Pergunnah rate. The latter assessments were made with reference to past Lagwans (rent rolls), personal enquiry, inspection of villages, and comparison of present state of cultivation, with that of the past year. When any Patel refused to pay what was considered a fair Jumma, the village was offered to another, or held under direct management. On completion of the settlement, koul namehs (leases) were given and kubooleuts received. The district now contains 2,304 villages which are divided into 10 Pergunnahs, and these Pergunnahs, into 3 Tehseeldarees. The Pergunnahs Ambagurh, Tirora, Bhundara and Chandpore form Tehseel Ambagurh, with the head-quarters of the sub-division at Bhundara. This Tehseelee is situated on both sides of the river Wyngunga to the west of the district, and comprises 627 villages. The Pergunnahs of Rampyloe, Dhunsooa, and Lanjee constitute Tehseelee Kampta, which is situated on the north of the Great Eastern Road; and is bounded on its west by the Ambagurh Tehseel, on the north by the Mundla district, and on the east by the district of Raepore. This sub-division contains 970 villages. The third sub-division is composed of Pergunnahs Sangurhee, Pownec, and Pertabgurh, aggregating 707 villages. This sub-division is called the Sakolee Tehseel, from the head-quarters of the Tehseelee being situated in the village of Sakolee, on the Great Eastern Road, about 27 miles east of Bhundara. This Tehseelee is situated to the south of the Great Eastern Road, and is bounded on the east by the Raepore district, on the south by the district of Chandah.

The revenue payable by each village has been fixed with reference to the area under cultivation and the lands lying fallow; the estimated

profits of the proprietor, the average rent rates on the various descriptions of soil, and the kinds of crop cultivated. The land revenue fixed on the villages in the district amounts to Rs. 4,34,822. Of this sum Rs. 1,64,889 are payable by the villages in Tehseelee Ambagurh; Rs. 161,125 by those of Tehseelee Kampta; and Rs. 1,08,307 by the villages of Tehseelee Sakolee. For the payment of the land tax two instalments have been fixed; the first in December, and the other in February. Other sources of revenue are the Abkaree and Drug excise, and a tax on trades and professions, called Pandree.

The Abkaree and Drug excise in 1865-66 amounted to Rs. 73,250

The Pandree tax for Do. Do. " 71,694

The total amount of revenue including land revenue is " 5,79,765

The high prices of grain recently prevailing have greatly enriched the agricultural classes, and have enabled them to bring much new land into cultivation. They have also begun to lay out capital in the land already under tillage,—throwing up banks round fields which had none before, raising the banks of some which were low, forming new reservoirs for the storage of water, and repairing old tanks. The district is tolerably well supplied with the means of irrigation, there being 3,618 lakes and tanks in it, some of the rivers also which intersect it afford facilities for irrigation. The Bawuntharree, which runs from east to west of the Pergunnah of Chandpore supplies water for the cultivation of sugar-cane, which is grown in large quantities on both banks. The water of other rivers is also similarly utilised in some places for agricultural purposes. Of the lakes and tanks in the district, 1,080 are in Tehseelee Ambagurh, 1,179 in Tehseelee Kampta, and 1,389 in Tehseelee Sakolee. The principal cereal cultivated in the district is rice; the percentage of this cultivation in the two sub-divisions is as follows:—

Ambagurh.....	40 per cent.
Sakolee.....	60 "

The cereal cultivated next in point of quantity is the Jowaree. Of the entire cultivation 20 per cent. is grown in Ambagurh Tehseel, 3 per cent. in Kampta Tehseel, and 12 per cent. in Sakolee.

To each Tehseelee sub-division is appointed a Tehseldar, who exercises Revenue and Judicial powers within his circle.

There were no established Courts of Justice during the Mahratta reign; Kumashdars and Patels administered justice according to their notions of right, or the partiality of the Judge. There was no written law, or custom, which was either well understood, or adhered to. In matters of succession the Mahomedan law in the case of Mahomedans, and the Hindoo law in the case of Hindoos, was resorted to. Suits involving above 1,000 rupees generally came before the Rajah, who either decided them himself, or referred them for decision to a Panchayet. Kumashdars were assisted by Phurnuveoses, Burar Pandias and head Patels of their sub-divisions. A fee of one-fourth, called Sookrana, was levied from the winning party in all suits decided, and an equal sum was imposed on the party who lost, as fine. These sums were paid to the Government. A fee of from 5 to 10 rupees, called Bhat Mussallah, was also paid to the Kumashdar, to defray the expense of

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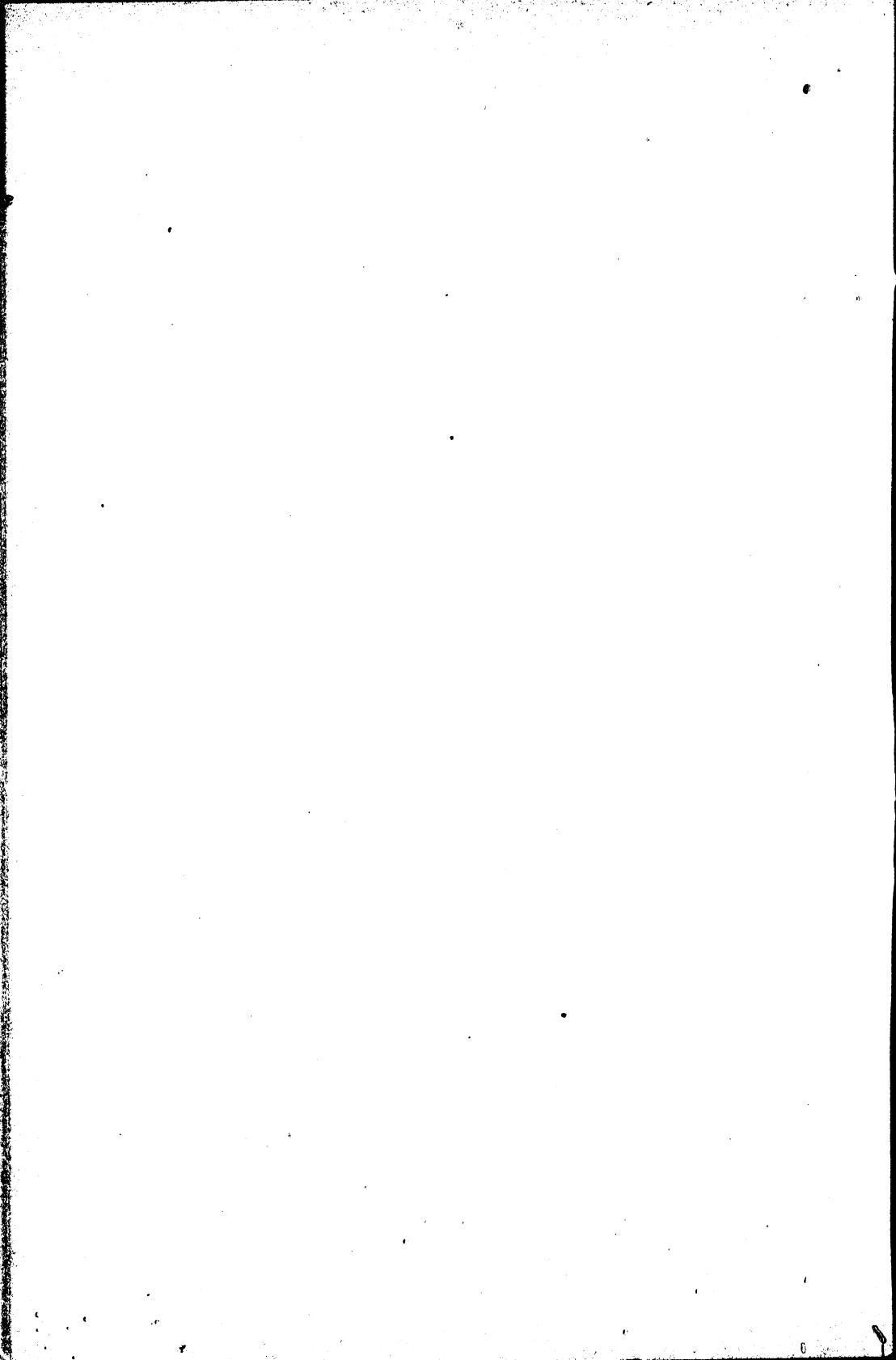
summoning the Defendants. The person summoned had also to support the man who served the summons on him. In each village, a Mahajun, or Arbitrator, was chosen by the Patels, and Ryots, for the adjudication of their disputes. He performed this duty, as far as lay in his power. Among the lower classes, the heads of the castes, styled Setiahs, decided disputes referred to them. If the parties were dissatisfied, a Punchayet of Setiahs was convened, whose decision was generally final. The Mahajuns and Setiahs were always persons of considerable consequence in their respective communities. Civil cases were decided by Punchayuts. The Punchayuts generally assembled at a chabootra (platform) where an idol of Mahadeo was placed, as it gave the sanctity of an oath to any proceeding that was transacted there. The Plaintiff, if a man of wealth, provided victuals, betel, tobacco, &c., for the members; —among the Gonds he provided liquor. The proceedings of the village Punchayuts were rarely recorded, but those assembled by the higher authorities were recorded, and referred for confirmation. The duty of seeing the decision carried into effect devolved on the person under whose authority the Punchayut was assembled. In criminal cases Patels imposed small fines for petty offences. Offenders taken to the than-nahs were generally flogged and confined in the stocks for 15, 20, or 30 days, and if they were in a condition to pay, fines were imposed on them. For house-breaking and theft they were punished at times by imprisonment in irons, confiscation of goods, flogging, detention in the stocks, and fine. Afterwards they were punished by mutilation of hands, nose, and fingers. If the person robbed was also wounded, the punishment was generally mutilation, if murder, the award was death. Brahmins and women were excepted from this rule; women guilty of the murder of their husbands were punished sometimes with mutilation of their noses. Pecuniary compensation was sometimes allowed if the relatives of the deceased agreed to the arrangement, by payment of 350 Rs. to the heirs of the person murdered. Coiners had one of their hands crushed to pieces with a blow from a heavy mallet or pestle. For fornication the person named by the woman was charged with the offence and fined heavily—part of which was carried to the Government account, and part taken by the Officer imposing the fine. The woman was then made over to her caste people, to be dealt with according to their award. For the Civil and Criminal Administration of the District now, there are 6 Officers with Civil powers and 9 Officers with Magisterial powers. The Deputy Commissioner is the Chief Judge in all cases—Revenue, Criminal and Civil—within the district; he has also general control over all matters executive or administrative. The Assistant Commissioners exercise the judicial powers of their grade, and take up any share of the administrative business which the Deputy Commissioner may allot to them. The Tehseldars are vested with subordinate judicial and fiscal authority within their circles. The stipendiary officers are assisted on the Criminal side by Honorary Magistrates chosen from the more intelligent and influential residents. The direction and distance of the country Criminal Courts from Bhundara are given below:—

Sakolee..... 24 miles East.

Moordurra..... 30 miles N. N. East.
Hutta..... 69 miles N. N. East.

BHUNDARA.

There are Station Houses of the Police, each under a Chief Constable, at Bhundara, Kampta, Sakolee, Moharee, Tirroa, Rampylee, Hutta, Lanjee, Arjoonee (Pertabgurh), and Pownee. There are also 18 outposts under the charge of head Constables. The District Superintendent has his office at head-quarters. The old fort is still the Jail of the district. All classes of prisoners, Civil, Revenue, and Criminal, are confined in it; the two first mentioned classes being accommodated in a separate ward. There are seldom any Revenue and but few Civil prisoners in it. The Criminal Prisoners' workshops are also within the Jail enclosure. Cotton and woollen carpets, durrées, table sheets, table napkins, newar checks, pantaloons clothes, wash-hand towels and bathing towels are manufactured by the prisoners. Books are also bound by a few of them.



GAZETTEER

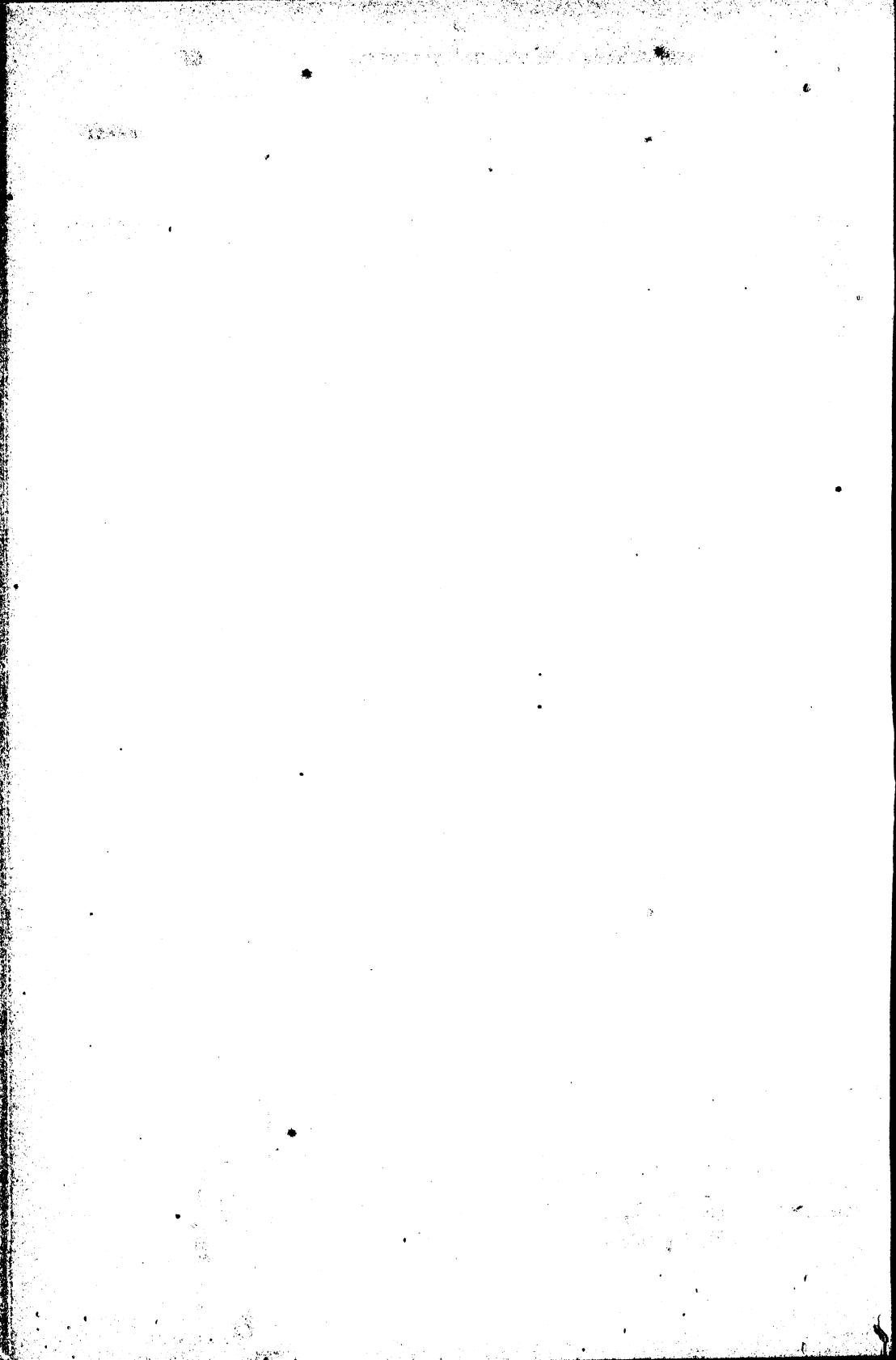
OF THE
CENTRAL PROVINCES.

PART II. { CHANDA.
 { CHINDWARA.
 { CHUTTEESGURH.
 Mahanuddy.

Nagpore:
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A S : S O C : B



CHANDA.

THE District of Chanda, or Chundrapore, lies between $19^{\circ} 7'$ and $20^{\circ} 51'$ north latitude, and $78^{\circ} 51'$ and $80^{\circ} 51'$ east longitude. Its extreme length north and south is 120 miles; its extreme breadth east and west 130; and the area contained about 7,000 square miles. In shape it is an irregular triangle, with the northern angle resting on the Raepore district, and the western on the junction of the Wunna and the Wurdah; while the southern angle on Seroncha is cut off. It is bounded on its northern side by the districts of Raepore, Bhundara, Nagpore and Wurdah; on its western side by the Wurdah and Pranheeta rivers, which divide it from Berar and the Hyderabad territory; on its southern apex by Seroncha; and on the east by Bustar and Raepore. Geographical description.

It is divided into ten Pergunnahs :—

1. Hawlee	{	constituting the Mhool Tehseel,
2. Ghatkool		
3. Ambgaon		
4. Rajgurh		
5. Berhampooree	{	constituting the Berhampooree Tehseel,
6. Gurboree		
7. Wyragurh		
8. Wurora	{	constituting the Wurora Tehseel,
9. Bhanduk		
10. Chimoor	}	

and 21 Zemindaries.

1. Panabarus and Avundee.
2. Ambagurh Chowky.
3. Moorumgaon.
4. Kooteegull.
5. Jarapapra.
6. Pullusgurh.
7. Maleewarra.
8. Gawurdah.
9. Khootgaon.
10. Dhanora.
11. Leka.
12. Doomalla.
13. Sonsurree.
14. Sirsoondee.
15. Rangee.
16. Koracha.
17. Aheree with Arpeille and Ghote.
18. Pawee Mootande.
19. Geelgaon.
20. Potegaon.
21. Chandala.

Attached to the Wyragurh Pergunnah.

Attached to the Ambgaon Pergunnah.

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Through the centre of the district, from north to south, flows the Wyngunga, meeting the Wurdah at Seonee, when their united streams form the Pranheeta. To this point Chanda consists of a great central valley, the southern portion of the basin of the Wyngunga, and of the left slope of a smaller valley trending from the north-west,—the eastern half of the Wurdah watershed. Below Seonee the Pranheeta valley, a prolongation of that of the Wyngunga, commences, and has the southernmost part of the district on its eastern face.

Numerous large streams fall into the three main rivers, watering the country abundantly in their course, and fed by almost countless rivulets.

The principal of these tributaries are,—

Of the Wyngunga.

On its eastern bank, the Garwee, the Kobragurhee, the Kamen, the Potpooree, and the Kooroor; on its western bank the Botewaree and and the Andarnee.

Of the Wurdah.

The Eerai and the Sir.

And of the Pranheeta.

The Deenee.

Save in the extreme west, hills are thickly dotted over the whole face of the country, sometimes in detached ranges, sometimes rising isolated from the plain, but all with a southerly trend. On the eastern boundary they increase in height, and form a nearly continuous chain.

Among the most noticeable are the Panabarus, Ambagurh Chowky, Kotegull, and Rangee Ranges, and the Perzagurb, Chinvoor, Mhool, Soorjagurh, and Dewulmurree hills.

Geological features.

The general configuration of the country, the strata of its elevations, where these are of sedimentary origin, their position, and line of direction, appear to point to the conclusion that the detached ranges and isolated hills have chiefly resulted from denudation, and that their summits now mark what was once the level of the surface.

The characteristic feature of the Chanda formation is the sand-stone series, which is of great thickness and widely diffused. The varieties it includes are very numerous, the strata in some places being several hundred feet thick, in others mere bands of flag-stone, while the texture ranges from coarse conglomerate to the finest free-stone, and the colours shade from white to purple, and from yellow to red. The economic value of the series is great.

Lime-stone near the surface is occasionally met with; coal measures it is believed underlie a large portion of southern Chanda; and argillaceous shales are not uncommon.

Of the volcanic rocks, trap-rock occurs towards the west and north; trap-tuffs, green-stone and clay-stone sparingly about the centre; a very fine, close-grained basalt breaks through the sand-stone near Jamboel-chatta; and laterite is largely diffused over the north.

Outbursts of the plutonic rocks ramify the whole district, the extreme west excepted; but nowhere do they rise to any considerable height. In grain and colour the granites differ greatly, and some of the varieties are very beautiful.

Of the metamorphic formations, quartz rock and gneiss are somewhat widely distributed.

Chanda is peculiarly rich in iron ores, which occur from the extreme north to the extreme south, and as far west as the eastern side of the Chimoor Pergunnah.

The ore varies in appearance from a bright steely substance to a dull red brown rock, and from a ferruginous earth to a black sand.

Traces of gold and of graphite exist in minute particles; and steatite and talc are met with.

Diamonds and rubies were formerly obtained near Wyragurh, but the mines have long since been abandoned.

The ochres and plastic clays of the district are numerous and excellent. There is also in the vicinity of the Wurdah a layer of silicious sand, as fine in grain as the finest flour, which is not without value.

The soil over the greatest portion of Chanda is red or sandy, streaked with patches of black or yellow earth; which, as the Wurdah and Wyngunga are neared, change into belts of heavy black loam; and of yellow loam, on the left bank of the Pranheeta.

Dense forests clothe the country, girdling or intersecting the cultivated lands, and feathering the highest hills. Teak grows everywhere, but it is only along the eastern frontier that it is now found of any size. There large trees are sprinkled along the entire line from north to south,—the most valuable reserve being in Aheree, where at present there are standing some 15,000 full grown and half grown trees.

Forests.

Beejasal, sheshum and saj (eyn) are widely distributed, the latter in great numbers. Kowah is plentiful in the vicinity of water, and mowah and char grow profusely in all red and sandy soils. Great tracts of bamboo jungle exist, some of whose canes are of immense size; and rohun, kullum, huldee, khair, teewus, shewun, ghurary, khoosum, cheech-wah, doura, bel, tendoo, and wood-apple are common.

Climate.

In the hilly wooded region on the east, the temperature is cooler, and more moist than is found further west, but the temperature of the district generally does not differ materially from that of other parts of the Nagpore country below the Ghats.

The annual rain-fall in Chanda registered during the last six years, averages 54·4 inches; but on the eastern frontier it must be much more.

The principle rains are from the middle of June to the end of September. Showers are also looked for in November and December, and on these depends much of the success of the dry crops and sugar-cane.

From the middle of September to the close of November fever of a malarious type prevails all over the district, few escaping an attack; and special care should be taken to avoid exposure to the night air during the period named.

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Cholera frequently occurs, and in some places with severity; but as a rule, the presence of dense jungle appears to arrest its spread. Many villages of the eastern forests, for instance, have never known the disease.

Small-pox carries off yearly a large number of children, attacking but few adults,—probably because the great majority of these were infected in their youth.

People.

In the Chanda country three distinct nationalities meet,—the Gond, the Teloogoo, and the Mahratta; and every town possesses a proportion of the three. Still, intermingled as they are, the great mass of each may be broadly said to inhabit different tracts; the Gonds lying chiefly east of the Wyngunga and the Pranheeta; the Teloogos along the east, centre, and south; and the Mahrattas in the northern and western Pergunnahs west of the Wyngunga.

The numerous castes included in these great divisions are described in Sir R. Jenkins's Report on the Nagpore territories; and it will be sufficient here to note the races of the Chanda District that are believed to be quasi-aboriginal.

These are,—

- 1.—The Gond, Purdhan, Kolam, and Hulbah,—of the Gond type.
- 2.—The Koholee and Manna,—of the Koholee type.

The first are famous for the construction of tanks, the second as agriculturists.

- 3.—The Golkur and Gowaree,—of the Goulee type.

The Chanda Gonds are divided into four tribes,—

- 1.—Raj Gond.
- 2.—Durweh Gond.
- 3.—Khutoolwar Gond (who wear the Janeo).

And 4.—March Gond.

All claim descent from the Pandoos, and all worship one great god, called by them Phersa Pen; but while one class acknowledges as minor deities the five Pandoos (Bheem and his four brothers), their wife Dropudee, and Krishna; a second class leaves out Krishna; a third dispenses with both Krishna and Dropudee; and a fourth retains only Bheem, and three of his brothers,—excluding the eldest.

These differences have led to each tribe being broken into the following sections or "Parrees":—

I.*Worshippers of 7 minor deities.*

1. Meshram.	3. Koosnaka.
2. Muraviee.	4. Muruskola.

II.*Worshippers of 6 minor deities.*

1. Atran.	4. Koorappa.
2. Koormeta.	5. Sutam.
3. Geram.	6. Pendoor.

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III.

Worshippers of 5 minor deities.

1. Soyam.	3. Koomra.
2. Joongnaka.	

IV.

Worshippers of 4 minor deities.

1. Sakatee.	3. Naitam.
2. Kowa.	4. Sirmakee.

Members of different tribes or of the same Parree cannot intermarry.

The so-called out-castes are the Khatik, Chumar, Mhar or Dher, Madgee, and Bhungee.

Of these, the Mhars play no unimportant part in the polity of the district, for they are very numerous, and widely spread; they form the chief thread-spinners and weavers of coarse cloth in the country; and the village watch and ward are mainly in their hands.

It may be surmised that they are in fact an aboriginal race which, conquered by more warlike tribes, and forced to perform degrading offices, sank at length into the position they now hold.

Few foreigners beside those of the Mahratta and Teloogoo nations have settled in Chanda. Deccan Mussulmans are the most numerous; and Marwarees, Bundelas, and men from northern India, are occasionally met with; but the aggregate of the whole is not large.

The Gond, Teloogoo and Mahratta, each speaks his national language, and the two latter have generally in addition an acquaintance with each others tongue, or with Hindee. Gondee, which possesses an affinity to Teloogoo, is not a written language, and for their documents the Gonds in the south use Teloogoo, in the centre, Mahratta or Hindee, and in the north Hindee. All the Gond Chiefs have a knowledge of the latter.

Language.

Sir R. Jenkins mentions that in 1826 A. D. Mahratta and Teloogoo were spoken in nearly equal proportions; but the ratio now is in favour of Mahratta, which is also the language of the Courts.

The characters which trace the early history of Chanda are her ancient temples, but as yet we can only read their meaning dimly. Three eras however are distinctly marked, the first by the cave temples; the second by the massive unadorned temples, put together without mortar, and clamped with iron; and the third by the temples of a construction similar to the second, but richly carved.

History.

Turning to tradition, we find narratives connecting these temples with events recorded in the sacred books of the Hindoos. We hear the wide-spread legend that great kings once reigned over the land, that some fearful and unknown calamity swept them away, devastating their cities and leaving them unpeopled, and that a dark age succeeded in which forests overgrew the silent land. Lastly, we hear that as late as 800 A. D. the country was one vast wilderness in which a few savage tribes lived and warred, and that none of the temples of the three eras were constructed by the race which then rose to power.

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At any rate, whatever may be the value of these local traditions or of narratives extracted from the sacred books, we have grounds for believing that Chanda was at a very early age a country settled and comparatively civilized. The original inhabitants must have been the Gonds, who still people the wilder tracts of the district, and who long afterwards established here a kingdom which lasted until the days of the Mahrattas. We may be allowed to conjecture that before the Christian era so much of the country along the Wurdah as had been reclaimed from the jungle was included in one or other of the ancient kingdoms of the Deccan, and that many centuries later it belonged to Telingana, or to some other of the great Hindoo principalities which were broken up by the Mahomedan invasions. In the 15th century the Bahmanee dynasty of Mahomedan princes had extended their dominion from the Krishna to the Nerbudda, and it would seem probable that the country between the Wurdah, and Wyngunga rivers was annexed to their territories. But Sir R. Jenkins in his Report on the Nagpore Province says* that "the reigning family at Chanda, termed Bulhur Sahee, probably a remnant of the Warungol race of kings, were supplanted by successors of the Gond tribe." Now the Hindoo dynasty which reigned at Warungol was overthrown in 1421 A. D. by the Bahmanee princes; and it might be inferred from the passage above quoted that the Hindoo rulers who had been driven from Warungol maintained their independence in the remote regions about Chanda against the Mahomedan invaders, until they were finally overcome by the Gonds of the country. Sir R. Jenkins however quotes no authorities for his historical sketch. But we may venture to assume that the Gond kingdom was established some time in the fifteenth century; for about the end of that century the Bahmanee state had fallen to pieces, and its provinces were divided in the general confusion that followed. It is by no means improbable that this remote corner of the Bahmanee territory, cut off from the rest by rivers, should have escaped the notice of contending factions, and should have been easily seized and retained by a petty local chieftain. A curious and romantic chronicle of these Gond kings has been compiled by Captain C. B. Lucie Smith, Deputy Commissioner of Chanda, from oral and written traditions collected at their ancient capital, and from a genealogy existing in the possession of their present lineal representative. It gives a list of the princes from their founder down to the last independent ruler, with the life and acts of each, and the incidents of his reign.

Sir R. Jenkins observes† that if the Mahomedan historian of the Deccan, Khafee Khan, is to be believed, the amount of tribute in cash, jewels, and elephants taken in Aurrungzebe's time from the Gond Rajahs of Deogurh and Chanda indicates considerable opulence. According to Captain Smith's chronicle, the Rajah cotemporary with Aurrungzebe was Ram Shah, who is known to have built the Ramalla tank and the Ram bagh—the latter near the present Chanda Court House. The Govindpoor suburb and the Nageena bagh (on part of

* P. 22, Edition Nagpore Antiquarian Society.

† Report, p. 22.

which the Chanda public garden now stands) were constructed by CHANDA Govind Shah, father to Ram Shah.

In 1718 A. D we find the Rajah of Sattara attempting to obtain from the Delhi Emperor the cession of Chanda; and about the same year the former sent Kanhojee Bhonsla to invade Gondwana. Kanhojee met with no military successes in the Chanda kingdom, and latterly betook himself to plundering, chiefly west of the Wurdah. He appears subsequently to have been recalled, but the summons having been disregarded, Rughojee Bhonsla was ordered to enforce his return, and about 1730 A. D. Rughojee captured him near Mundur, in the Sirpoor Pergunnah (now of Berar), and forwarded him to Sattara. Rughojee then proceeded to the City of Chanda, where he was courteously received by the king; and tradition states that the Mahratta soldier was so awed by Ram Shah's calm mien and bearing, that in place of seeking pretext for quarrel, he did him homage as a god.

Ram Shah was gathered to his fathers in 1735 A. D. and he still lingers in the memory of the people, as an aged saint-like man, unruffled by the cares of earth, and inspiring a love not unmixed with solemn dread. Well would it have been for the fame of his house, had the fast waning thread of the Gond dynasty been severed at his death, for his son Neelkunth Shah, who now succeeded to the throne, was an evil and cruel prince. He put to death his father's trusted Dewan, Mahadojee Vedyā, and dismissed with contumely all the high officers of the former reign. The people he ground to the dust; and he interfered in the political disputes of Deogurh. Retribution overtook him swiftly, for in 1749 A. D. the Mahrattas were at his gates and the city fell,—not by the award of battle, but by the treachery of an estranged Court. Rughojee thereupon dictated a treaty of partition, by which two-thirds of the revenues were alienated to the Mahrattas, but the remnant of power then spared soon vanished, for in 1751 A. D. Rughojee took entire possession of the kingdom, and made Neelkunth Shah a prisoner—the latter dying in confinement.

Thus ended the dynasty of the Gond Kings of Chanda. Originally petty chiefs of a savage tribe, they spread their sway over a wide dominion, reclaiming and peopling the wild forests in which they dwelt, and save a nominal* allegiance to the Delhi throne, preserving their soil for several hundred years inviolate from foreign rule. When at length they fell, they left, if we forget the few last years, a well governed and contented kingdom, adorned with admirable works of engineering skill, and prosperous to a point which no after time has reached. Other dynasties in the great drama of Indian Story have played parts far more striking, but few have deserved so well of those they governed as the ancient house† whose power passed away with Neelkunth Shah.

From this time Chanda became a Province of the Bhonsla family.

* Note.—Both in architectural remains, and in local tradition there is a complete absence of the Mahomedan element.

† In a seal granted by the Delhi Emperor to Ram Shah in 1710 A. D. the inscription is, "Rajah Ram Sing, highest class dependent of Mahumud Gazee, Emperor, 1131 Sun"—while the style used by the Gond kings was "Great King of Kings, Lord of the Earth."

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and it will be sufficient to record only those events which directly affected the former.*

In 1755 A. D. Rughojee died, leaving four sons,—Janojee, Sabajee, Moodhojee, and Bimbajee. Janojee, the eldest, succeeded; but the succession was disputed by Moodhojee, who was supported by the Court of Poona, and several encounters took place between the brothers. Moodhojee having been worsted, the matter was referred to the Peshwa, who confirmed Janojee in the Government of Nagpore, with the title of Sena Sahib Soobah; while Moodhojee was granted Chanda and Chutteesgurh, with the appellation of Sena Dhoorundhur.

Moodhojee was wasteful and rapacious, and did much to ruin the country under his rule. In 1758 A. D. he left Chanda in the hands of his creditors, and proceeded to Hindustan with Rughonath Rao, the uncle of the Peshwa.

In 1773 during the struggle for power between the two brothers, Moodhojee and Sabajee, who both claimed the regency on the death of their elder brother Janojee, Chanda was not undisturbed. Bullal Shah, a son of Neelkunth Shah, escaped from confinement in the Bullalpoor fort, and collected a considerable force of Gonds, with the intention of seizing Chanda and Manikdroog. The insurgents however were routed at Gunpoor, in the Ghatkool Pergunnah, by Mohiput Rao, the Soobadar of Chanda; and Bullal Shah, after receiving a gun-shot wound was captured and sent in to Nagpore.

About this time a party of the Poona Ministerial forces penetrated to Chormoree, near Bhanduk, and made prisoners of the ladies of Moodhojee's family. Venkut Rao, Zemindar of Aheree and his brother Mohan Shah, were at the time military Governors of the Chanda City, and a third brother, Vishwas Rao, was in charge of the Manikdroog fortress. These three attacked the Poona troops, and rescued the ladies, who were escorted in to Chanda.

Moodhojee finally defeated his brother, whom he killed with his own hand in battle. He himself died in 1788 A. D., and his son Rughoojee II.—till then but titular Rajah,—assumed the Government. He obtained from the Court of Poona for his younger brother Venkajee the title of Sena Dhoorundhur, and allotted to him Chanda and Chutteesgurh.

In 1789 A. D. he released Bullal Shah, and granted him a yearly pension of 600 rupees. Venkajee, commonly called Nana Sahib, resided at Chanda, and was of a quiet and religious disposition. He rebuilt the Bullalpoor fort and the Chanda citadel, both of which had fallen to ruin, and he erected a palace, a fragment of which forms the present Kotwaliee. Several temples owe their construction to him, the handsomest being the new building over the shrine of Achuleshwar, and the Moorleedhur temple within the palace precincts.

In September 1797 A. D. the Eerai rose to an extraordinary height,

* NOTE.—In the narrative of events from 1755 A. D. to 1819 A. D. Sir R. Jenkins's Report and Grant Duff's History of the Mahrattas have been largely drawn upon. Where the two authorities differ, the latter has been usually followed.

flooding the entire city of Chanda, and submerging numerous dwellings. CHANDA.

In 1803 A. D. Rughoojee II., by the treaty of Deogaon, lost Cuttack, and the provinces west of the Wurdah, Manikdoorg and Sirpoor, the ancient seat of the Bullal Sing dynasty thus passing away from Chanda.

About this time the Pindharees first made their appearance in the district, and gradually overran the country, few villages escaping pillage, and many being rendered wholly desolate. Their visits roused the plundering classes into action, and the injury inflicted directly and indirectly, is incalculable.

In 1811 A. D. Venkajee died at Benares, and his son Moodhojee, known as Appa Sahib, succeeded to the title of Sena Dhoorundhur. Appa Sahib appears to have been born and brought up at Chanda, but no act of his prior to his becoming the head of the Nagpore State has left its mark on the district.

In 1816 A. D. Rughoojee II. died leaving but one son, Pursajee, who was imbecile in mind and body. After some opposition, Appa Sahib was declared regent, and sedulously courted the British alliance. In January 1817 he proceeded to Chanda, and during his absence from Nagpore, Pursajee died—murdered, as it was subsequently learnt, by Appa Sahib's secret orders. The latter, as nearest heir, now became Rajah of Nagpore. Avowedly a warm friend of the British, he privately intrigued against them in all directions, until November following, when he threw off the mask and declared hostilities. The battles of Seetabuldee and Nagpore followed, in which he was signally defeated, was forced personally to surrender and to agree to terms, which rendered him wholly dependent on the British.

In January 1818 he was permitted to resume the Government, and immediately recommenced his intrigues. He invited the Peshwa, Bajee Rao, to move on Nagpore; stirred up the Gonds to oppose the British, and ordered the Killadar of Chanda to recruit, intending to escape to that city, but the Resident, Mr. Jenkins, was watching his plans, and on the 15th March caused him to be seized and brought a prisoner to the Residency.

In the meanwhile his adherents were hastily making efforts to garrison Chanda. Bhoojung Rao, Zemindar of Aheree, and his brother Kondoo Bapoo, Zemindar of Arpeille, threw themselves with their followers into the place, and every able-bodied citizen of the lower classes was pressed into the ranks.

On the 2nd April the van of Bajee Rao's army reached Wurra, ten miles west of Chanda, on the left bank of the Wurdah, but was there checked by Lieutenant-Colonel Hopeton Scott, who had been despatched from Nagpore to prevent Bajee Rao getting into Chanda. Colonel Adams, with a second division, shortly arrived in the vicinity, and on the 17th April the combined forces attacked and routed Bajee Rao at Fudurkura west of the Wurdah.

The British Troops then laid seige to Chanda, one brigade taking

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ground at Kosara, on the right bank of the Eerai, north-west of the city; while the second was massed south-east of it, at the junction of the Jhurput and Eerai. Batteries were posted on an eminence (called the Manch hill) in the latter position, and fire being opened, a breach was soon made in the line of curtain between the Puthanpoora gate and the Hunooman wicket. On the morning of the 2nd May the storming parties moved to the assault and were met in the breach by the regular garrison, who are said to have fallen to a man in its defence, while the Killadar, Gunga Sing, was also slain, rewarding with his dying breath one Ali Khan, who claimed to have shot an English Officer.

The struggle however was of short duration, and the British were quickly masters of the place, which was given up to sack; but in the general plunder which ensued the Killadar slain protected his home far better than his living arm could have defended it, for the English, in admiration of his conduct at the assault, caused his house to be scrupulously respected.

Appa Sahib's repeated treachery having proved him unworthy of trust, the British Government decreed his deposition, and placed Rughjee, a grandson of Rughjee II., at the head of the Nagpore State. As the new Rajah was only some nine years old, a regency was appointed under his grandmother Baka Baee, and the administration of the country was conducted by the Resident, acting in the name of the Rajah, and assisted by British Officers in charge of each district and department.

The mean rapacious spirit which characterised the Bhonslas in all dealings with their subjects, had caused infinite harm to the Chanda district; and from 1803 A. D. constant disturbances and lawlessness had added their evil fruits. It is on record that the population in 1802 A. D. was double that in 1822 A. D., and that the houses in the City of Chanda had decreased during that period in nearly the same proportion.

The able men* who from 1818 A. D. to 1830 A. D. now administered the district in succession, did much, each in his time, to restore the former prosperity of the country. The Gond chiefs who had rebelled, were brought to submission; plundering was stopped, and order established; the heavy assessments on land were reduced; deserted villages re-peopled; and ruined irrigation works repaired. Education was encouraged, and during this period Soodajee Bapoo, a Teloogoo Brahmin of Chanda, gained an Indian reputation by his published works in Mah-ratti, Teloogoo, and Sanskrit, the scientific value of which, particularly of his treatise on the Copernican system, was warmly acknowledged by the Government of India, and the Asiatic Society of Bengal.

But in June 1830 A. D. the management of the country was made over to the Rajah, Rughjee III., and progress stayed. Short-sighted, grasping measures took the place of a broad and generous policy; men without interest found their lands taxed to almost their full return, while those with influential friends paid less than their just due; many of the old proprietors were ejected, and the best villages bestowed on relatives and favourites of the Rajah, or on official underlings. Thus

* These were Captain G. N. Crawford, Captain Pew, Captain L. Wilkinson.

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sprang up a body of absentee proprietors, holding the richest estates in the district, but knowing nought about them, and having hardly an interest in common with the country or its people; anxious only to obtain the largest possible income, and utterly careless of the well-being of their tenantry—a striking contrast to the policy pursued by the Gond kings.

Plundering revived in spite of military parties posted thickly over the district; and as late as 1852 A. D. a Government treasure escort was attacked and robbed by Gonds on the Mhool road, not 16 miles from Chanda.

In 1853 A. D. Rugojee III. died heirless; and the Nagpore Province was then incorporated in the British Empire, the administration being conducted by a Commission under the Supreme Government.

The first Deputy Commissioner of Chanda, Mr. R. S. Ellis, of the Madras Civil Service (since created a C.B.) assumed charge of the district on the 18th December 1854 A. D.

The swell of the great wave of rebellion which swept over India in 1857-58 A. D. was felt in Chanda; and the wild nature of the country, the predatory habits of the Gonds, and the proximity of the Hyderabad territory, combined to render the management of the district during this period a task of peculiar anxiety; but Captain W. H. Crichton, (the then Deputy Commissioner) prevented any out-break, until March 1858 A. D. when Baboo Rao, a petty Chief of Monumpullec, in the Aheree Zemindary, commenced plundering the Rajgurh Pergunnah, and was shortly afterwards joined by Yenkuo Rao, Zemindar of Arpeilee and Ghote. These two leaders then openly declared rebellion ; and collecting a mixed force of Rohillas and Gonds withstood the troops sent against them. On the night of the 29th April, a party of the insurgents attacked Messrs. Gartland, Hall, and Peter—Telegraph employés who were encamped near Choonchgoondee on the Pranheeta,—and killed the two first. Mr. Peter escaped into the Aheree keep, and as soon as possible joined Captain Crichton, who was in the vicinity directing operations. Subsequently when it was desired to communicate with Luchmee Baee, the Zemindarin of Aheree, Mr. Peter disguised himself as a native, and safely delivered to her Captain Crichton's letter.

The rebels made a stand at several points, but never with success; and at length, by the exertions of Luchmee Baee, Baboo Rao was captured, and was immediately sent in to Chanda, where he suffered death on the 21st October 1858 A. D.

Yenkuo Rao escaped to Bustar; but in April 1860 A. D. he was arrested by the Rajah of that dependency, and on being handed over to the British authorities, was sentenced to transportation for life, with forfeiture of all property.

On the 2nd March, 1861, the Nagpore Province and the Saugor and Nerbudda territories were formed into the Government of the Central Provinces, and Chanda then became a district of the Nagpore Division.

The administration of the district is conducted by a Deputy Commissioner, assisted by a District Superintendent of Police, an Assistant Commissioner, an Extra-Assistant Commissioner, a Medical Officer,

Official arrangements.

CHANDA.

and three Tehseeldars, the five first having their head-quarters at the Station of Chanda, and the three last being located at Mhool, Berham-pooree and Wurora, respectively. There are also temporarily a Settlement Officer with an Assistant, and a Revenue Surveyor.

The Imperial Customs Line runs through the district, and is officered by two Patrols and four Assistant Patrols.

Educationally, Chanda is included in the Southern Circle; with regard to the department of Public Works, in the Southern Road Division; as respects the Customs, in the Wurdah Division; and in the Southern Division of the Forest Department.

The station is garrisoned by two companies of Native Infantry; and in military matters is under the Officer Commanding the Nagpore Force. It is occasionally visited by the Chaplain of Seetabuldee.

Imperial revenue.

The Imperial Revenue is raised under six main heads, viz:—

I.—*Land Revenue*,—which is the sum assessed by the State on the land.

II.—*Forests*,—under which are shown the receipts accruing from Government forests and wastes.

III.—*Abkaree*,—which includes (1) wholesale and retail vend of spirituous liquor and intoxicating drugs, and (2) excise tax upon the growth of opium.

IV.—*Customs*,—under which are credited—

1. Import duty on salt.
2. Export duty on sugar.

V.—*Pandree*,—a graduated tax on all persons not belonging to the agricultural or official classes.

VI.—*Stamps*,—being the amount derived from the sale of stamps.

Local revenue.

A Local Revenue, expended wholly on local purposes, is obtained from the following sources, viz:—

I.—*School Cess*,—being two per cent. on the land assessment; or where the land is revenue-free two per cent. on the gross rental.

II.—*Dawk Cess*,—being half per cent. on the same.

III.—*Road Cess*,—two per cent. on the same.

IV.—*Ferry Fund*,—consisting of receipts from ferries, pounds, &c. &c.

The receipts during 1865-66 were as under:—

<i>Imperial.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>	<i>Local.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>
I. Land Revenue.....	2,50,695.	I. School Cess.....	5,923.
II. Forests.....	8,393.	II. Dawk Cess.....	1,682.
III. Abkaree.....	88,169.	III. Road Cess.....	5,482.
IV. Customs.....	61,536.	IV. Ferry Fund.....	2,682.
V. Pandree.....	37,855.	V. Nuzzool Fund.....	480.
VI. Stamps.....	10,815.	VI. Municipal Fund.....	26,921.
VII. Fines, Forfeitures &c.,..	14,516.		
Total Rs.	4,83,009.	Total Rs.	45,710.

V.—*Nuzzool Fund*,—being income from lands and tenements which have escheated to the State. CHANDA

VI.—*Municipal Fund*,—derived in municipal towns from a duty on goods imported for sale or consumption within the town.

The income obtained from sources III. to V. is expended by a district local Committee.

With regard to head No. VI, each Municipal town has a Municipality, which disposes of its own funds under control of the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner.

The chief local institutions under public management are Dispensaries, Schools, District Post Offices, and a Museum. Local institutions.

Of the former, there is a first class Dispensary in the city of Chanda, and branch Dispensaries are being established at Arinoree, Berhampooree, and Wurora.

The Government schools for boys consist of a Zillah school at the head-quarters of the district, where pupils are carried as far as the matriculation standard of the Bombay University; four Town schools at Mhool, Berhampooree, Chimoor, and Wurora, respectively, in which English will soon form part of the course; and twenty-two Village schools, in which a more elementary education is given.

For girls there are ten schools,—three being at Chanda, and the remainder at Dhaba, Mhool, Berhampooree, Nagbeer, Bissee, Chimoor, and Wurora.

There are also fifteen Indigenous schools, which declare themselves open to Government inspection.

In addition to two Imperial Post Offices, ten District Post Offices, with necessary establishment of runners and delivery peons, are distributed over the district.

Lastly, at the station of Chanda, a Museum, and an extensive public garden are being formed; and a Protestant Church will shortly be commenced.

Previous to the changes now being wrought by the permanent Settlement, the superior landholders of Chanda were of five classes :— Landholders.

I.—*Zemindars*,—who held large tracts of lands on a kind of feudal tenure.

II.—*Mookasdars*,—who possessed rent-free villages generally, in consideration of military or religious service.

III.—*Muktadars*,—whose estates were granted at a permanent annual demand, not liable to alteration.

IV.—*Tookoomdars*,—who, having constructed tanks, were invested at a fixed rent with as much land as the tanks could water.

V.—*Patels*,—latterly called Malgoozars, who held villages on short leases at the pleasure of the State, and were in fact mere middlemen between the Government and the actual cultivators of the ground.

CHANDA.**Natural products.****Agricultural produce.****Cattle and sheep.****Game.****Manufactures.**

Chanda is rich in timber, wild fibres, lac, tussa, cocoons, beeswax, mowah, and other forest produce; in useful stone of various colours, and composition, from the hardest granite to the softest soap-stone; in coal, ochres, plastic clays and iron ores.

Rice and goor are the chief agricultural staples; but excellent cotton, jowaree, oilseeds, wheat, chenna, and pulses are also grown; and the Chanda Pan gardens are famous throughout the Province.

Horned cattle are bred in great numbers, but are not possessed of any special good qualities.

Large flocks of sheep abound, principally kept for their wool and manure, and are of three distinct breeds, which are locally known as the Wurora, Mhool and Godavery sheep,—the latter having hair instead of wool, and are found only in the extreme south. Goats and poultry, both good of their kind, are plentiful.

To a sportsman Chanda offers a magnificent field, for game of every description swarms in the forests, hills, and lakes of this district.

The chief manufacture of the district is coarse and fine cotton-cloths, which are largely exported to Western India; and Sir R. Jenkins mentions that prior to 1802, A. D. the coarse cloths found their way as far as Arabia.

The Teloogoo weavers turn out cloths of coloured patterns, some of which are in very good taste; and cotton-thread of a wonderful fineness is spun, chiefly for export.

Silk fabrics are well made, though the demand for them is not great; and there are also stuffs manufactured of a mixture of silk and cotton.

Large numbers of Tussa silkworms are bred in the forests; and the wound silk obtained, both in a dyed and undyed state, forms an important item of export. In some places it is woven into pieces for local consumption.

Great quantities of excellent iron are smelted, alike for home and foreign use, the industry employing a considerable body of men.

Carts for driving purposes and for the carriage of goods are extensively made, as may be gathered from the fact that the value of those sold at the Chanda fairs during 1865-66 amounted to rupees 3,38,700.

Chanda was formerly distinguished for workers in precious and in baser metals, but much of that fame has now been lost. The district still, however, has, a few good goldsmiths, silversmiths and cutlers; and the Berhampooree braziers turn out utensils, of combined brass and copper, of a superior sort.

The Chanda stone-cutters are skilful as a body; some possess no mean talent for carving, and others gain their livelihood by shaping bowls and platters out of the Jamboolghattha soap-stone.

Good carpenters are found only in Chanda itself, and are scarce even there; but some of these are excellent workmen.

In minor trades the district possesses a reputation for Native slippers, which are made chiefly in the city of Chanda and at Berhampooree; and its basket-work and matting hold a high place.

The external trade of Chanda is principally with the Wurdah, Nagpore, Bhundara, and Raepore districts, with Bustar and the Eastern Coast, and with the Hyderabad territories and Berar.

CHANDA
Trade.

The sales of the year are mostly transacted at Fairs, which assemble annually at Chanda, Bhanduk, Chimoor and Markundee, and to which one at Wurra will shortly be added—the two first being by far the most numerously attended.

They are held in the following order:—

Chimoor in January,
Bhanduk in February,
Markundee in February,
Chanda in April;

and are visited by men from distant parts of India. The sales actually effected at them in 1865-66 amounted to rupees 21,49,272 (£214,927).

Subsequently to the Mahratta conquest of Chanda, trade gradually dwindled away, and the capital, being on no highway of traffic, felt the change with special severity. Within the last few years however trade has wonderfully revived, and the position of Chanda now promises to be one of some commercial value, for 30 miles west of its frontier the Great Indian Peninsula Railway connects this part of the country with Bombay, while water communication from the City gates will soon open out traffic with the Eastern Coast.

The most considerable towns of the district, in order of their relative importance, are Chanda,† Wurora,† Armooree,† Chimoor,† Nagbheer,† Neree,† Berhampooree,† Wyragurh, Sindwai,† Tullodee,† Dhaba,† Gurchiroolee,† Segaon,† Chamoorsee, Nuwurgoan,† Soulee,† Mhool,† Madheree,† Goonjwai, and Gurboree; and Jamboolghatta,† though itself a small village, is of consequence, as having the largest weekly bazar in the district.

TOWNS.

Chanda is thickly studded with fine tanks, or rather artificial lakes, occurring in greatest number in the Gurboree and Berhampooree Per-gunnahis; indeed, as recorded by the Chief Commissioner, thirty-seven can be seen at once from the heights of Perzagurh.

Tanks.

These lakes are formed by closing the outlets of small valleys watered by a stream; or throwing a dam across sloping land intersected by rivulets; and the broad clear sheets of water thus created are often most picturesque in their surroundings of wood and rock and hill.

Among the finest are those at Rajolee, Adyal, Attewai, Dongurgoan, Pullusgoan, Mangrool, Janala, Ekara, Tekree, Taroba, Sindwai, Nuwurgoan, Goongwai, Joonona, Nuwkhulla, Jamnee, Mohurlee, Katwules, Mudnagurh, Rajgatta, Koonghara, Saigatta, Bhugwanpoor, and Mesa.

Architectural
objects of
interest.

The chief architectural objects of interest are the cave temples at Bhanduk, Winjbasune, Deowala and Ghoogoos; the rock temple in the bed of the Wurdah, below Bulialpore; the ancient temples at Markundee, Neree, Bhuttala, Bhanduk, Wyragurh, Ambgoan, Wagnuk, and Keslabooree; the monoliths near Chanda; the forts of Wyragurh

† The places marked with a cross are Municipal towns.

CHANDA.

Natural ob-
jects of in-
terest.

and Bullalpore; and the walls of the city of Chanda, its system of water-works, and the tombs of the Gond kings.

The following places are worthy of visit: the rapids of the Wurdah at Soeet; the junction of the Wurdah and the Wyngunga at Seonee; the Ramdegee Pool, near Kislabooree; the Moogdai spring and cave in the Perzagurh hills, about a mile from Domah; the coal-seams near Chander, Ghoogoos, and Bullalpore; the quarries in the vicinity of Chanda and Jamboolgatta; and the iron mines at Lohara, Ambagurh Chowkee, Dewulgaon, Wugurpet, Peepulgoan, Tatolee, and Pawee Moolanda.

TOPOGRAPHICAL INDEX.

Adyal.

A small village eight* miles south-west of Berhampoorree, possessing a very fine tank.

Aheree.

Zemindaree of, with Arpeillee and Ghote, constitutes the southern portion of the district; and is bounded on the north by the Ambgaon Pergunnah; east by Bustar; south by Seroncha; and west by the Pranheeta river; and contains an area of about 3,438 square miles. It is hilly on the east and south especially,—the most noted of the elevations being the Soorjagurh and Dewulmurree hills; and is famed for its magnificent forests. Much of the teak has been felled, but there still remain some 15,000 full grown and half grown teak trees. The inhabitants are almost wholly Gonds, and the languages spoken are Gondee and Teloogoo. The Zemindar, Menga Rao, is an Honorary Magistrate, and resides chiefly at the village of Aheree, seventy miles south-east of Chanda. He is the first in rank of the Chanda Zemindars, and is connected with the family of the Gond kings.

Allewai.

A small village with a very fine tank, twenty-four miles south south-west of Berhampoorree.

**Ambagurh.
Chowkee.**

Zemindaree of, situated on the north-east frontier of the district, and is of considerable extent. Towards the Raepore side it is fairly cultivated; but much of it is hilly, and large tracts are covered with jungle. Excellent iron ore occurs in the Zemindaree. It is inhabited by Gonds, with a sprinkling of Goulees; and the language spoken is chiefly the Chutteesgurh dialect of Hindoo. The Zemindar, Oomrao-Sing, is the third in rank of the Chanda Zemindars, and resides at Chowkee, twenty-two miles north-east of Wyragurh. An Assistant Patrol of the Customs department is posted at the village. The Sew, which is the principal tributary of the Mahanuddee, rises in this Zemindaree.

Ambagaon.

Pergunnah of, is the eastern Pergunnah of the Mhool Tehseel, and contains with its dependent Zemindaries, but excluding Aheree with Arpeillee and Ghote, about 1,212 square miles. It is bounded on the north by the Wyragurh Pergunnah; east by Bustar; south by Aheree and west by the Wyngunga; and has 67 villages and 4 Zemindaries. It is hilly, and save in the vicinity of the Wyngunga, of red or sandy soil, covered with dense jungle. It is much intersected with tributaries of the Wyngunga, the largest of which are the Kamen, the

* The distances entered against places are the distances by the road, and in most cases considerably exceed what are shown by the Map. The length of the rivers gives to only approximate.

CHANDA

Potpooree, and the Kooroor. Its staples are rice, jungle produce, and tussa thread; and it carries on a considerable trade in salt with the East Coast. In the south, Teloogoo is chiefly spoken, which yields to Mahratti in the north; but the traders all over the Pergunnah are Teloogoo. Of the agricultural classes, the most numerous are Khoonbees, Kapeewars, and Son Tehlees. The principal towns are Gurchiroolee and Chamoorsee; and the village of Markundee is noted for its ancient and beautiful group of temples.

The village of Ambgaon was once the capital of the Pergunnah, but is now a dreary looking place, of a hundred huts, shut in by dense jungle. It has two ancient temples; one dedicated to Mahadeo, and the other to Mahakalee; and possesses also two large tanks.

Ambgaon.

River Andarnee.

The River Andarnee—a western tributary of the Wyngunga,—has three main brauches; the first rising in the eastern slopes of the Perzagurh hills; the second near Bissee; and the third, in the Chimoor hills. The first and second unite at Kurrumgoan, and are joined by the third near Jham; and the river falls into the Wyngunga a little south of Ghatkool, after a course from north to south, measuring in a straight line, of sixty-five miles.

The town of Armoree is the third in commercial rank in the district, and is situated in the Wyraghurh Pergunnah, on the left bank of the Wyngunga, about 80 miles north-east of Chand. It has 1,300 houses, of which 400 are occupied by workers in thread and coarse cloth; 165 by weavers of the finer kinds of cloth, coloured and uncoloured; 150 by fishermen, who largely breed the tussa silkworm; 40 by dealers in tussa thread; and 40 by general traders.

Armoree.

Armoree manufactures fine and coarse cloth, country carts, and tussa thread; and is pre-eminently a mart at which forest produce, cattle and iron from the wild Eastern tracts are exchanged for the commodities of the Western countries.

Its foreign trade is with Berar, Wurdah, Nagpore, Bhundara, Chutesgurh, Bustar, and the Eastern Coast; and during the rains it carries on some small boat traffic on the Wyngunga. Octroi is levied in the town, the farm of which for 1866-67 realized rupees 2,000.

Armoree possesses a Police out-post and a Government school; and a handsome market-place is now in process of construction. The principal residents are Babajee Boojoo, Apa Komtee, Sambha Koshkatee, Sukharam Wunjaree, and Kassinath Mokassee.

The Zemindaree of Arpeillee is a dependency of the Aherree Zemindaree, which see.

Arpeillee.

Avundhee.

Berham-pooree.

Avundhee is a portion of the Panabarus Zemindaree, which see. This is the western Pergunnah of the Berhampooree Tehseel; and is bounded on the north by the Bhundara district and the Wyngunga; on the east by the Wyngunga; on the south by the Gurbooree Pergunnah; and on the west by that of Chimoor. It has an area of about 336 square miles, and contains 143 villages. It is hilly along the west and south, with considerable tracts of jungle, and the soil is chiefly red or yellow.

CHANDA.

The Botewaree, a tributary of the Wyngunga, traverses it from west to east; and numerous splendid tanks water the country, producing its staples of rice and sugarcane.

The principal towns are Berhampooree and Nagbheer; and Mahratti is the prevailing tongue.

**Berham-
dooree.**

Is a municipal town, and the head-quarters of the Berhampooree Tehseel, is situated 80 miles north north-east of Chanda, in a bend of the Wyngunga. It contains 1,358 houses, and is more a place of residence for the neighbouring landholders than a trading mart. It manufactures, however, fine cotton-cloth and thread, excellent brass and copper utensils, and good driving carts. The Octroi for 1866-67 was rupees 600.

The town is prettily situated on red gravelly soil, and surrounded with picturesque groves, and rolling rocky ground. In the highest part of the town is an old fort, the walls of which have been levelled, making a spacious *place*, from which the whole of the surrounding country is seen stretched out, and on this square stand the Government School-house, the Tehseel Court-house, and the Police Station-house; while it is hoped before long to complete the work by a handsome tank with a broad flight of steps. There are also a District Post Office, a Female School, a Branch Dispensary, and a Tehseel Nursery for trees.

The people are chiefly Mahrattas; and the leading residents are Junoba Janee, Tanba Bhuttulwar, Vishnajee Janee, and Arjoonjee Goorao.

Bhanduk.

Bhanduk is the eastern Pergunnah of the Wurora Tehseel, and contains an area of about 384 square miles, with 76 villages. It is bounded on the north by the Chimoor and Gurboree Pergunnahs; on the east by the Hawelec Pergunnah; on the south by the Wurdah; and on the west by the Wurora Pergunnah. By far the larger portion is hill and forest, and it is intersected from north to south by the Eerai and Andarnee rivers. In the vicinity of the Wurdah black loam prevails, on which cotton and dry crops are grown; and beyond this belt the soil is sandy or yellow, chiefly producing rice. Bhanduk and Chundunkhera are the two largest towns, the population is Mahratta, with a mixture of Teloogoo.

The town of Bhanduk is 18 miles north-west of Chanda, and about a mile west of the Southern Road. It contains 470 houses, and is a long straggling place, spread over a large extent of ground, and surrounded, save on the west, by old groves and jungle. It is supposed to be identical with the great city of Bhudrawuttee, mentioned in the Maha Bharut, extending from Bhuttala on the west, to the Jhurput on the east; and the scene of the battle for the Shamkurna horse, which eventually was borne away by the demi-god Bheem, for sacrifice by Dhurm, the king.

The architectural remains in and around Bhanduk are of remote antiquity and great interest; among them being the temple caves at Bhanduk and in the Winjhasunee, and Deowala hills, the foot-print of Bheem on the latter hill, the temple of Bhudrawuttee, the site of the king's palace, the bridge over a now dried-up lake, the out-lines of fort

on the Winjhasunee and Deowala hills, and numerous ruined temples and tanks—proving the existence of a great city in the far distant past.

CHANDA

Bhanduk now has little trade in itself; but an extensive Fair assembles here yearly in February, the transactions at which are very large.

The products of the town lands are chiefly pan leaves, turmeric, and rice; and the residents are mostly Mahratta.

Bhanduk has a Government School, a Police Station-house, a District Post Office, and a Serai.

Is a village situated 26 miles north north-west of Bhanduk, and is supposed to have formed part of the ancient Bhudrawuttee. On a long hill near the village are the remains of a very fine ancient temple, lofty, and in good preservation; and the whole hill bears traces of having been fortified; while at the foot are several tanks which once were approached by long flights of steps.

Bhattala

Close to Bhattala there is a quarry of excellent free-stone.

A village 7 miles south-west of Berhampooree, possessing a fine tank.

Bhugwanpoor.

Is a town of 600 houses, 11 miles north of Chimoor. It has a boys' school, a girls' school, and a Police out-post. There is also a modern temple handsomely carved.

Bissee.

River,—a western tributary of the Wyngunga,—rises in the eastern slopes of the Perzagurh hills, and after an easterly course of 28 miles, falls into the Wyngunga at Runmunchun. This stream never dries, and the water is considered peculiarly good for drinking purposes. During the rains its clear current can be traced flowing in but not intermingling with the muddier volume of the Wyngunga.

Botwaree.

A village 6 miles south-east of Chanda, on the left bank of the Wurdah, was the seat of the earlier Gond kings. Although now containing only 253 houses, foundations can be traced for a considerable distance in what at present is jungle, showing the large area over which the old city extended. There is a fine stone fort, much of which is modern, having been rebuilt about the end of the last century. Within it are the remains of the ancient palace, among which are two tunnels sloping at a steep angle into the ground. The entrances are a few feet apart, and the tunnels branching off in opposite directions lead each to a set of three underground chambers. When these were explored in 1865, A. D. some ancient copper coins and decayed iron rings were found. There is also a perpendicular shaft, the object of which has not yet been ascertained.

Bullalpoor.

North of the village are the ruins of a large and elaborately made tank, in which, owing probably to the falling in of the under channels, any water collected sinks through the earth and appears as a stream a little further down.

East of Bullalpoor stands a tomb of one of the Gond kings; and in an islet in the Wurdah in the same direction there is an exceedingly curious rock temple, which during several months of the year is fathoms under water. It is known as the "Ram Teerth," and in 1866, A. D. was thoroughly cleaned out and explored.

CHANDA.

A few hundred yards beyond the Ram Teerth, in the bed of the Wurdah, is a seam of coal, laid bare by the action of the stream.

The situation of Bullalpoor is picturesque,—the Wurdah banks being high and rocky, and the river beneath at all times deep and broad, while ancient groves furnish abundant shade.

A Police out-post is stationed here, and near the fort is an unfinished English house, which visitors are generally permitted to use.

Chamoorsee.

Is a town situated near the left bank of the Wyngunga, 44 miles east of Chanda. It contains 750 houses; and the inhabitants are chiefly Teloogoo. The number of wells is noticeable, there being at least a hundred within the town, and their water is peculiarly good. The town lands produce rice and sugarcane. A Saturday bazar is held, at which groceries, salt, tobacco, and vegetables are retailed; and there is also a trade in castor-seed from the Hyderabad territory; ghee, tussa cocoons and tussa thread and salt from the East Coast.

Chamoorsee possesses a Government School, a District Post Office, and a Police Station-house; and an Assistant Patrol of Customs is stationed here. The principal inhabitants are Gunput Rao Venkutesh, Venkajee Ruggonath, and Guungaya Komtee.

Chanda.

The capital City of the district, is situated in $19^{\circ} 57'$ north latitude and $79^{\circ} 22'$ east longitude, in the angle formed by the junction of the Eerai and Jhurput. For its history the reader is referred to Part I. It is surrounded by a continuous line of wall crowned with battlements, $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles in circuit, of cut stone in perfect preservation, with crenellated parapet and broad rampart, traced in re-entering angles, and semi-circular bastions. It is pierced with four gates, called Jutpoora, Vinba or Ghor-maidan, Puthanpoora, and Mahakalee or Achuleshwur; and five wickets, named Chor, Vithoba, Hunmunt, Mussur, and Buggur. Inside the walls are detached villages, and cultivated fields, interspersed with buildings more worthy of a city; and without the walls are the suburbs of Jutpoora, Govindpoor, Heevurpooree, Lalpét and Baboopét; the whole having a total of 4,326 houses. The population is chiefly Mahratta and Teloogoo; the traders, shopkeepers and craftsmen (notably the masons) being generally the latter. The City was formerly famous for the learning of its Brahmins; and this fame has not been wholly lost. The principal products and manufactures are pan leaves, sugarcane, and vegetables, and fine and coarse cotton-cloths, silk fabrics, brass utensils, leather slippers, and bamboo-work. A considerable trade is carried on, the imports and exports in 1865-66 being rupees 29,57,179 (£295,717) and rupees 13,49,485 (£134,943) respectively, mainly in cotton, grain, country-cloths, metals, and hardware, cotton, spices, English goods, tobacco, sugar and goor, timber, carts, oilseeds and salt. A large portion of the transactions occur at the Chanda Fair, which commences in April, and lasts for about three weeks. The booths and sheds, which cover a large area, are erected east of the City, near the Mahakalee temple; and it is a remarkable fact that, though this Fair is held during the height of the hot weather, no instance is remembered of cholera having spontaneously broken out. Goods brought to the Fair are free of municipal tax; and the Town duty receipts are consequently somewhat small; the octroi being, for instance, in 1866 only realized Rs. 12,100.

The appearance of the City from without is most picturesque. Dense forest stretches to the north and east; on the south rise the blue ranges of Manikdoorg; and westward opens a cultivated rolling country with distant hills. Set in this picture, sweep the long lines of fortress wall now seen, now lost, among great groves of ancient trees; in front glitters the broad expanse of the Ramallah tank; and the Jhurput and the Eerai gird either side.

CHANDA.

The works in Chanda a visitor should inspect, are the City walls and gates, the Ramallah tank with its system of water-works, the tombs of the Gond kings, the citadel (now enclosing the Jail) with its large well, and underground passage, the latter leading, no one knows whither, the Achuleshwur, Mahakalee, and Moorleedhur temples, and the massive monoliths at Lalpēt.

The public buildings consist of the Kotwalee, the Zillah School-house, the Dispensary, and the Jail, a Dawk Bungalow and a Serai. In front of the Kotwalee is the Kotwalee garden; and nearer the Jutpora gate, the Victoria market (under construction); while between the City and the station a public Park, called by the natives Nugheena Bagh, is being formed.

The leading citizens are Goolab Chund, Govindjee Dushrutjee, Mhooteum Marsettiwar, Soogund Chund, and Venkutachary Shastree.

The Civil Station, or head-quarters of the district, is situated north of the City, having the military cantonment at the west end, with the Civil lines in the centre and east.

The public buildings consist of the District Court-house, the head-quarter Police Station-house, and a Christian cemetery; to which a Protestant Church will shortly be added, and the usual military buildings for a Regiment of Native Infantry.

There are also an Electric Telegraph Office, an Imperial Post Office, and a District Post Office.

For the various officials residing at Chanda reference should be made to Part I.

Is a small Zemindaree containing 7 villages, attached to the Ambgaon Pergunnah. It is of recent creation, having been granted to the first holder by Captain Crawford, about 1820, A. D.

Chandala.

Is a thriving and somewhat picturesque village, 14 miles west of Chanda. In the bed of a small stream, about a mile south of the village, a seam of coal strikes the surface.

Chandoor.

Hills commence east of Chimoor, and run due south as far as Mohurlee; and are 20 miles long by 6 broad. Both slopes and summits are covered with thick forest, and the range forms a striking feature in the scenery of the surrounding Pergunnahs.

Chimoor.

In a basin in the south-west is the Taroba lake; and all along the foot of the hills run numerous springs which never fail.

Is the northern Pergunnah of the Wurora Tehseel; and is bounded on the north by the Nagpore district; on the east by the Berhampooree and Gurboree Pergunnahs; on the south by the Gurboree and

Chimoor.

CHANDA.

Bhanduk Pergunnahs; and on the west by the Bhanduk and Wurora Pergunnahs and the Wurdah district. It contains an area of about 416 square miles, and has 158 villages. It is hilly along the east and south; and branches of the Andarnee and the Eerai intersect it from north to south. The southern half is largely covered with forest, which also extends along the west and east. The soil is principally red, sandy, or yellow, with considerable stretches of black loam. Rice, sugarcane, oil-seeds, wheat, cotton, chenna and jowarce, are grown; and many fine tanks exist, chiefly under the eastern hills. Mahratta is the prevailing language. The principal towns are Chimoor, Neree and Bissee; and midway between them is the village of Jamboolghatta, where the largest weekly market in the district assembles.

The town of Chimoor is situated on a branch of the Andarnee, 48 miles north of Chanda. It is the fourth in commercial rank in the district, and contains 1,000 houses, the population being Mahratta, with a sprinkling of Teloogoo traders and artizans. The manufactures are fine and coarse cotton-cloths, chiefly the former, which have a local reputation for peculiar durability, also carts both for travelling purposes and for carriage of goods. Chimoor trades principally in cotton, grain, cotton-cloths, sugar, and goor, oil-seeds, and carts; and a large portion of the sales are effected at the annual Fair, which is held in January. Octroi is levied in the town, and the farm for 1866-67 realized rupees 1,800.

There are some fine groves in the vicinity of Chimoor; and it possesses several temples worth visiting. There are also a town school for boys, a girls' school, a Police Station-house, and a District Post Office.

A handsome *plâce* has been nearly completed on the raised area of the old fort; and on the *plâce*, facing the river, a new school-house is under construction.

The leading inhabitants are Bhuwanba, Krishnajee Naik, and Vithul Keshee Begre.

See Ambagurh Chowkee.

Chundunkhera. Is a large village, situated on the Eerai, 28 miles north north-west of Chanda. It was founded by a branch of the Bullal Sing dynasty; and from this branch descended Ram Shah, who by adoption became King of Chanda in 1672, A. D.

Chundunkhera possesses two forts, now in ruins; and is under the protection of the Gond demi-god named "Daiyut," who has an invincible antipathy to women, and to mud, stone, and brick walls. The latter dislike is unfortunate, as in consequence the best houses are mere structures of grass and bamboo.

Deena. River,—an eastern tributary of the Pranheeta,—rises in the north of the Aheree Zemindaree, and after a southerly course of 25 miles falls into the Pranheeta a little below Bhoree.

Deewala. A village 6 miles west of Bhanduk, of interest an account of its architectural remains. For an account of these *see* Bhanduk.

Dewnlgaon. Is a village 10 miles south-west of Wyragurh, famous for a striking looking hill in the vicinity, from which excellent iron-ore is quarried.

Is a moderate sized village on the left bank of the Pranheeta, 8 miles south of Aheree. In the neighbourhood is a range of fantastically jagged hills.

CHANDA
Dewulmurrer.

Is a Town situated 40 miles south-east of Chanda, and contains 416 houses. Through the centre flows a broad and shallow tributary of the Wurdah, and numerous groves surround the town. Rice is chiefly cultivated; the manufactures are tussa handkerchiefs and coloured cloths; and the place is noted for the production of neat silver snuff-boxes. It formerly turned out handsome woollen rugs, but this industry has died out. There is a small trade, principally in cotton cloths, groceries and salt; and Octroi is levied, the farm of which in 1866 realized rupees 600. The population is almost wholly Teloogoo.

Dhaba

Until a recent period, Dhaba was subject to constant raids by the wild tribes on the other side of the Wurdah, and to this day the shopkeepers do not expose their goods for sale.

The town possesses a Government School for boys, a girls' school, a Police Station-house, and a District Post Office, and an Assistant Patrol of Customs is stationed here.

The principal inhabitants are Anundrao, Ramchundra, Dhajeeba Khuttee, and Hurbhut Jundialwar.

Zemindaree is situated 23 miles east south-east of Wyragurh, and contains 20 villages. It is attached to the Wyragurh Pergunnah.

Dhanora.

Is a flourishing village under a western bluff of the Perzagurh range, 14 miles north-east of Chimoor. It is held in Mookassee tenure by a Mahratta Sirdar, whose ancestor was present with Rughojee I. at the conquest of Chanda.

omah

About a mile east of the village, in the Perzagurh hills, is the Moogdai spring. On ascending this portion of the range a platform of rock is reached, and beyond it rises a smooth sheer precipice, a hundred feet in height, black from exposure, but in reality white sand-stone. Over this in the rains plunges a broad cascade, and in the driest weather a slender stream trickles from the foot of the precipice, and falls into a cleft in the rocky platform, four feet long by one foot wide, where throughout the year is an unvarying depth of seven feet of water. A few yards from the crevice is a large shallow cavern, sacred to the Manna goddess, Moogdai, facing the precipice, and having a deep rocky ravine on its left.

During the ravages of the Pindarees, the Moogdai platform was the refuge of the neighbouring villages; and a small Fair is still held here.

Is a prosperous village 26 miles south-west of Berhampooree, possessing a very fine tank.

Dongurgaon.

Zemindaree is situated 17 miles south-east of Wyragurh. It contains 18 villages and is attached to the Wyragurh Pergunnah.

Doodmalla.

River, rises in the west of the Chimoor Pergunnah, near Jambgaon, and after a southerly course of 35 miles, falls into the Wurdah below Hartstree.

Erai.

CHANDA.

Is a pleasantly situated and thriving village, 20 miles south of Ber-hamporee, possessing a very fine tank.

Ekara Garwee. River, rises in the Bhundara district, and after a southerly course falls into the Wyngunga on its eastern bank a little below Sconee.

There is a legend that this stream issued from the earth at the prayer of Garga Rooshee, but not arriving as quickly as he wished, the holy man on seeing it shouted in a rage "begone thou she ass." Hence the river has borne the names of Gargee, and Garwee (she ass).

Gawurdah.

Zemindareo is situated 15 miles north north-east of Wyragurh, and is attached to the Wyragurh Pergunnah. It nominally contains 56 villages, but a large number of these are waste. The Zemindaree was granted during the Mahratta rule.

Geelgaon.

Zemindaree is situated 12 miles north-east of Chamorsee, and is of ancient tenure. Its extreme length is 26 miles, and extreme breadth 16 miles, but has only 12 villages. It is hilly and over-grown with forests, in which Beejasal and Saj are abundant. It is attached to the Ambgaon Pergunnah.

Ghatkool.

Pergunnah is the southern Pergunnah of the Mhol Tehseel; and is bounded on the north by the Hawelee and Rajgurh Pergunnahs; on the east by the Wyngunga; and on the south and west by the Wurdah. It contains an area of about 368 square miles, and has 81 villages. The western half is very hilly, and the north, west, and centre are covered with heavy forest, the cultivated tracts being chiefly along the Wyngunga. In the vicinity of the rivers the soil is mostly black loam; and in the centre and north red or sandy. Rice, sugarcane, and wheat are grown. The people are principally Teloogoo, but in most cases speak Mahratti or Hindee in addition to their own tongue. The chief places are Dhaba, Tullodee, and Thogaon.

This Pergunnah in the beginning of the present century was continually overrun by plunderers from the opposite side of the Wurdah; and numerous villages were in consequence deserted, and have remained desolate to this day.

Ghatkool.

Village is situated at the juction of the Andarnee and Wyngunga, 12 miles north north-east of Dhaba. This was formerly the Pergunnah town, but is now only a moderate-sized village.

Ghoogoos.

Is a large village, 13 miles west of Chanda, with abundant shade; and possessing remains which show it to have been formerly a place of importance. It has three temple caves, and in their vicinity are some carved stones, apparently meant to represent animals, but so weather-worn that their intention can only be guessed at.

Near the village about the end of the seventeenth century occurred a battle between the Gond King Ram Shah and the insurgent priaces Bagba, Agba, and Ragba—Agba falling on the field, where his tomb is still to be seen; and in the neighbourhood is the "Ghora Ghat," so called from Bagba's fabled leap across the Wurdah.

On the bank of this river, between Ghoogoos and Chandoor, a seam of coal crops to the surface.

Ghote.

Zemindaree belonging to Aherce, which see.

Is a large village, 26 miles south of Berhampooree, possessing a fine tank. The inhabitants are almost wholly Teloogoo. It has a Police out-post and a Government school.

CHANDA.
Goonjwai

About 2 miles from Goonjwai is the Tatolee hill, a long low ridge, from which iron-ore is quarried.

Is the south-west Pergunnah of the Berhampooree Tehseel : and is bounded on the north by the Berhampooree Pergunnah; on the east by the Wyngunga; on the south by the Rajgurh and Hawelee Pergunnahs; and on the west by the Pergunnahs of Bhanduk and Chimoor. Its area is about 576 square miles, and contains 129 villages. It is very hilly; is intersected from north to south by four branches of the Andarnee; and large tracts are covered with forest. The soil is chiefly red; and the cultivation consists of rice and sugarcane. This is *par excellence* the Lake Pergunnah of Chanda; the most picturesque, and the one best deserving the visit of a tourist. Here are found the Koholees in greatest numbers, too often dispossessed of the magnificent tanks their forefathers constructed; and here too the Mānnas abound. Mahratti is generally spoken; but in the south Teloogoo prevails. The chief places are Sindwai, Tullodee, Nowurgaon, Goonjwai, and Gurboree.

In early times the Gurboree Pergunnah was held by Mānna Chiefs, who subsequently were conquered by the Gonds, and the Pergunnah then became an appanage of the Gond princess of Wyragurh.

The town of Gurboree is situated 16 miles north north-west of Mhool, on a branch of the Andarnee. The houses cluster round a fortified hill in the centre, and the whole is enclosed by forest. A number of the neighbouring landholders reside here, but the place is in a decaying state, and there is very little trade. A speciality of the town is a saree (native female garment) of a peculiar pattern, which is only manufactured here; and the Gurboree pān is supposed to be the best in the Nagpore Province. In the vicinity are quarries of excellent free-stone and lime-stone.

Gurboree possesses a Government school, and a Police out-post; and the principal inhabitants are Anund Rao Shunkur, Krisnajee Gopal, and Narayen Bulwunt.

Is a town situated on the left bank of the Wyngunga, 23 miles east north-east of Mhool. It has 750 houses, and is the largest trading mart in the Ambgaon Pergunnah. About one-fourth of the population is Teloogoo and the remainder Mahratta. Rice and sugarcane are grown; and the manufactures are chiefly cotton-cloths, tussa thread, and carts. The trade is in cotton, cotton-cloths, tussa cocoons, and tussa thread, jungle produce, carts, and salt. Octroi is levied, the farm for 1866-67 realizing rupees 400.

Gurchiroolee.

Gurchiroolee possesses a Government school, and a Police out-post; and the principal inhabitants are Fureeda Patel, Rajaram Komtee, and Tornoo Wunjaree.

Is the western Pergunnah of the Mhool Tehseel; and is bounded on the north by the Bhanduk and Gurboree Pergunnahs: on the east by the Rajgurh and Ghaktool Pergunnahs; on the south by the Wurdah river; and on the west by the Wurdah and the Bhanduk

Hawelee.

CHANDA.

Pergunnah. Its area is about 448 square miles ; and it contains 102 villages. On the north-east and east the country is hilly, and more than half of the Pergunnah, north and east, is covered with dense jungle. The Eerai intersects it from north to south, and the Andarnee flows in a south-easterly direction along its eastern boundary. The soil in the vicinity of the Wurdah is black loam, and in other parts sandy and somewhat stony. The language spoken is chiefly Mahratti. Dhunaje Koonbees form the largest agricultural class. Chanda is the only large town in the district.

Indoopoor**Jamboolgatta.**

The ancient name of Chanda in the pre-historic age.

Village is situated 7 miles north-east of Chimoor. The largest market in the district is held here every Tuesday and Wednesday, and is numerously attended by traders from the surrounding districts. The chief Chanda products sold are cotton-cloths and iron.

About a mile from the village are extensive quarries of soap-stone, which have been worked rather more than a hundred years. They are at present in the hands of three families of stone-cutters, who employ hired labour to aid in digging ; and about fifty cart-loads of stone are annually quarried and fashioned into bowls and platters.

Close to these quarries are others of a very fine black basalt. They were worked for three years by Rughojee III. who employed on them, for eight months out of twelve, on fixed wages, about 250 persons, the stone being principally used in the construction of a temple at Nagpore. On Rughojee's death the establishment was discharged ; and the quarries have subsequently fallen in. The main excavation is an irregular oval of about 38 feet by 60 feet ; and the cost of clearing away the debris is roughly estimated at rupees 5,000.

The surrounding soil is red or sandy, with a considerable quantity of quartz cropping up, and some little laterite.

Oetroi, the farm of which realized rupees 1,200 in 1866, A. D. is levied here ; and with these funds a fine well having an excellent spring has been constructed ; and a market-place will shortly be commenced.

A Police out-post is stationed at the village.

The first Durbar held by the Chief Commissioner in the Chanda district took place here on the 21st March 1865, A. D.

Jamnee.

Village is situated 32 miles north of Chanda, under the eastern slopes of the Chimoor hills, and on the brink of a large artificial lake. Dense forest shuts in both lake and village, rendering the spot as picturesque as it is unhealthy for strangers.

The Chanda and Chimoor road passes by Jamnee ; and a Police out-post is located here for the protection of travellers.

Janala.

Village is situated 8 miles south-west of Mhool, under a spur of the Mhool hills. It possesses a magnificent tank, the water of which however is deleterious to strangers.

Jaraapapra.

Zemindaree is 44 miles north-east of Wyragurh, and contains 33 villages. It is attached to the Wyragurh Pergunnah.

River, is a broad shallow stream, which rises a few miles north-east of Chanda, and falls into the Eerai opposite Puthanpoora gate.

CHANDA.

Jhurput.
Joononee.

Village is situated 7 miles east of Chanda, and 6 miles north of Bullalpoor; with which latter place it is supposed to have been connected during the occupation of Bullalpoor as the capital of the Chanda kingdom. It possesses a very fine tank, on the stone embankment of which stand the remains of an ancient palace; and in its rear are traces of a wall four miles in length. In communication with the tank is an elaborate system of under channels, some of which have evidently been injured, as a large volume of water now escapes by them.

River rises near the Ranjee hills; and after a generally westerly course of 25 miles, falls into the Wyngunga a little above Gurchiroolee.

Kamen.

Village is situated 1½ miles east south-east of Segaoon, and possesses a very fine tank.

Katole.

Village is situated under the western slopes of the Chimoor hills, 10 miles north north-east of Segaoon. There is a considerable area under rice, irrigated by a hill spring, the water of which is stated to be very deleterious to strangers. The village now consists of only a few huts, but the grassy stretches around show that it once was of large size. In the vicinity, at the foot of a precipice, is the Ramdègee pool, hollowed out of the rock, about 40 feet in diameter, and of unknown depth; and into this basin fall during the rains a considerable stream from the precipice above. The pool is supposed to have been formed by Rama, when passing through the land; and on an eminence above is an ancient temple, in which are two good carvings of a warrior with shield and straight sword. The temple is fast crumbling to ruin; and within the last 200 years some additions have been made to the original structure.

Keslaboree.

Situated 26 miles north of Chanda, was formerly a large town, giving its name to the Pergunnah, but is now a collection of eight Gond huts in a wide forest. For a considerable distance round Khatora are stretches of grass unbroken by trees, showing where cultivated ground existed at no remote period; and there are the remains of a considerable stone fort with a moat, and double lines of defences. Near one of the bastions is the tomb of Chand Khan, who is much venerated by the Mussulmans of the district.

Khatora.

The water used at Khatora is that of a hill spring, and is most deleterious to strangers.

River, an eastern tributary of the Wyngunga, rises in the eastern Zemindaries of Wyragurh, and rolling westward is joined near the town of Wyragurh by the Teepagurhee, which flows from the extreme north. The united stream, sometimes known as Khobragurhee, sometimes as Wytochunee, falls into the Wyngunga two miles south of Seonee, after a course of 50 miles.

Khobragurhee.

Zemindaree is 20 miles south-east of Wyragurh, and contains about 50 villages. It is attached to the Wyragurh Pergunnah.

Khootgaon.

Is a flourishing village of 400 houses, situated 10 miles north-east of Chamoorsee. It possesses a fine tank.

Koonghara.

River, has several branches, which rise in the hilly ranges of the

Koorcor.

CHANDA. Ambgaon Zemindarees and after a very winding course of 40 miles, falls into the Wyngunga, a little above Chamoorsee.

Koracha. Zemindaree lies on the extreme east of the district, 40 miles east of Wyragurh; and contains 75 villages, the largest of which is Manpoor. Through this latter place great numbers of Chutteesgurh Bunjaras pass to and from the East Coast. The Zemindaree is attached to the Wyragurh Pergunnah.

Kotegull. Zemindaree is situated 70 miles north east of Wyragurh, and is peculiarly hilly. It has 18 villages, and is attached to the Wyragurh Pergunnah.

Leka. Zemindaree is a very small tract, containing 6 villages, and is situated 24 miles south-east of Wyragurh. It is of a recent tenure, having been granted under the Mahratta rule to a Mussulman Jemadar of Burkundauzes. It is attached to the Wyragurh Pergunnah.

Lohara. Is a small village 20 miles south south-west of Berhampooree, famous for a hill of iron-ore in its vicinity. From it is obtained a large portion of the iron exported from the district. The view from the summit is worth the ascent.

Lokapoor. The ancient name of Chanda.

Madheree. Is a flourishing village, 11 miles west north-west of Wurrora, at which a large weekly market is held. Octroi is levied, the farm for 1866-67 realizing rupees 1,200. A Government school has recently been opened here, and a market place will shortly be commenced. The principal inhabitants are Kishen Barthee, Chandum Mull, and Nuval Mull.

Maleewarra. Zemindarree is 24 miles east north east of Wyragurh, and contains 12 villages. Until a recent period it formed part of the Pullusgurh Zemindaree. It is very hilly; and is attached to the Wyragurh Pergunnah.

Mangrool. Lies 20 miles south-west of Berhampooree, on the eastern side of the Perzagurh range. It possesses a very fine tank, and is picturesquely situated.

Markundee. Village is situated on the left bank of the Wyngunga, 3 miles north north-west of Chamoorsee. The hamlet has only 25 houses, and derives its name from a group of temples, the most beautiful in the district, which stand on a high bluff overlooking the river. Here the waters of the Wyngunga flowing south, suddenly change their course and roll backwards to the north; then sweeping round in a wide curve they resume their progress to the sea.

The Markundee group comprises a monastery; and is enclosed in a quadrangle, with entrances from the river front and the two sides; while along the rear side runs a row of cells facing the Wyngunga. The buildings themselves are of great antiquity, but much of the rich carving which adorns the centre temple is of comparatively recent date.

The apex of this temple has fallen, and some of the stones on the top are twisted round overlapping the base, so as to give the idea that at any moment they may come crashing down; but it is stated that they have hung thus for two generations. Formerly a broad flight of steps

led from the front to the river's bed, but much now has been swept away. The monastery is constructed of a purple stone, obtained from rocky islets in the Wyngunga. Among the ancient sculptures are several of warriors with sword or battle-axe, and bow and arrows. The best of these is about 3 feet high, and displays a soldier with a short straight sword in his right hand, and in his left a long bow, while at his back he carries a quiver full of arrows. All the warriors have anklets. The more modern carving is of rare excellence, covering every inch of space on the centre temple, and consisting mainly of human figures, about two feet high, which the learned say, recount scenes in a continuous tale.

CHANDA.

About the fourteenth century (of the Christian era), Venkut Rao, a Gond Chief of Arpeillee, founded the village of Markundee. It is however subject to yearly inundation, and in consequence few will reside here.

A Fair is held annually near the monastery in February, but the attendance of late years has not been large.

Good stone for mills is found in the islets of the Wyngunga, close to Markundee, and is worked up by the Chamoorsee masons.

Village is situated 3 miles west south-west of Segaoon, and possesses a fine tank.

Messa.

Hills, are situated 3 miles west of Mhool, and measure 18 miles from north to south, and 13 from east to west. They are covered with forest, among which is a good deal of large beejasal; and under the southern slopes near Peepulkote, teak is springing up in greater profusion than is found in any other Khalsa tract in the district. Numerous perennial streams abound along the foot of the range, dotting the forest with patches of sugarcane. The valleys of Dhonee and Jerree on the south, and of Kholsa on the west, were once immense artificial lakes, with large villages on the slopes of the hills, at which extensive markets met. Now there are a few Gond huts on the site of the lakes, and thick forest on the hill sides. In the very driest weather the grass in these valleys is brilliantly green, and the streams running through them bright and limpid. The Dhonee valley especially is worthy of a visit during the summer months; but the visitor should be careful to boil the spring water before using it. On the hills is found a species of snowdrop, the leaves of which are eaten by the Gonds as a vegetable; and under the southern slopes is a large excavation into which the elephants that once abounded in this part of the country, were driven to destruction by the Gond hunters.

Mhool.

The town of Mhool is situated 30 miles north-east of Chanda, on the eastern side of the Mhool hills. It is the Tehseel town of the Mhool Tehseel, and contains 776 houses. Three-fourths of the population are Telooogoo; the principal castes being Saleewar, Kapewar, Punchal, Gandlee and Komtee. Rice and sugarcane are grown; and the chief manufactures are coloured cotton-cloths and native shoes and sandals. There is little trade beyond what arises from the consumption of the inhabitants. Octroi is levied, the farm for 1866-67 realizing rupees 525.

A Tehseeldar is stationed here; and there are a town school for

CHANDA.

boys, a girls' school, a Police station-house, a district Post Office, and a Tehseel nursery for young trees. The leading residents are Sittaram Punt, Atmaram Deshpandia, and Ramjee Bokare.

Mohurlee.

Village contains 87 houses, and is situated 20 miles north of Chanda, in the midst of thick jungle. It possesses a very fine tank, and grows rice and sugarcane.

The Chanda and Chimoor road passes by this village; and a Police station-house, and a district Post Office are placed here.

Moogdah.

Spring and cavern of, *see* Domah.

Moolanda.

See Pawee—Moolanda.

Moorumgaon.

Zemindaree is situated 35 miles east south-east of Wyragurh. It contains 25 villages, and is attached to the Wyragurh Pergunnah.

Madnagurh.

Tank is situated 11 miles east north-east of Chimoor, under the western slopes of the Perzagurh range. The tank is a very fine one, and there is a long line of embankment, turning a hill stream into the tank. At the end of this embankment are the outlines of a hill fort. The village is now wholly desolate, but the lands are cultivated by people of the neighbourhood.

Nagbheer.

Town is situated 12 miles west south-west of Berhampooree, and contains 900 houses. The population is chiefly Mahratta. Fine cotton-cloths of peculiar excellence are manufactured here, and there is some little trade. Rice is principally grown. Octroi is levied; and the farm for 1866-67 realized rupees 480.

The town possesses an old fort, now in ruins; and has a boys' school, a girls' school, and a Police out-post. The leading residents are Yadeo-rao Yeshwunt, Sukharam Komtee, Balajee Koskatee, and Gungadeen Scorai.

Neree.

Town is situated on a tributary of the Andarnee, 5 miles east south-east of Chimoor, and contains 917 houses. The population is Mahratta, with a sprinkling of Telooogoo, principally Punchals. Rice is largely grown; and brass and copper utensils, and cotton-cloths are manufactured for export. There is a considerable trade in these goods, and also in grain, groceries, and salt. Octroi is levied, the farm for 1866-67 realizing rupees 480.

The town has two forts, now in ruins; and is divided into the old town and the new town, with an extensive stretch of rice cultivation between. It possesses an ancient temple of no small size and beauty, the pillars and carving of which resemble those met with in the cave temples of Adjuntah. Of modern construction are some graceful Punchal tombs, in which husband and wife sleep side by side.

Neree has schools both for boys and girls. The principal inhabitants are Gurajee Punt, Venaik Atmaram, Vittul Nilkunth, and Nurholi Burjé.

Nuwukhulla.

Village contains 300 houses, and is situated one mile north-west of Nagbheer. It has two fine tanks.

Nuwurgaon.

Town contains 756 houses, of which 150 are inhabited by ~~eighteen~~; it lies 6 miles north of Gurboree. The streets are wide and straight, and

the town generally is one of the neatest in the district. At some little distance is a very fine tank. A large quantity of cotton-cloths are manufactured here for export; and rice is extensively grown. Octroi is levied, the sum for 1866-67 realizing rupees 360.

CHANDA

The population is principally Mahratta. There is a Government school for boys; and the leading residents are Chinappa Komtee, Gopee Kullal, Krishna Patel, and Jagoba.

Zemindaree is situated 80 miles east north-east of Wyragurh. It has now very little cultivated land, but it is stated, that at one time 360 villages dotted its valleys and hill-sides. The whole country is mountainous, and is covered with forests, in which are thousands of noble teak trees. From these forests was supplied the teak used in the construction of the Nagpore Palace, the Kamptee barracks, and the Residency at Seetabuldee; and of late years great numbers have been felled by timber contractors. Wild arrowroot (toukeer) grows abundantly in the valleys, and large quantities of wax and honey are obtained in the hills. The climate is moist and cool, even in the summer months, so much so, that natives of Panabarus feel the heat oppressive when at Chanda.

Panabarus.

Included in Panabarus is a dependent Zemindaree called Aoundee.

The Chief of Panabarus is the head of the Wyragurh Zemindars and the second in rank of the Chanda Nobles. The present Chief is married to a sister of the Aheree Zemindar.

Zemindaree is situated 16 miles east of Chamoorsee. It possesses excellent iron-ore, has a good deal of teak, ebony, and beejasal; and contains 35 villages. It is attached to the Ambgaon Pergunnah.

Pawee-Moo-tandah.

Hills, form the eastern boundary of the Chimoor Pergunnah, dividing it from Berhampooree; and are 13 miles long by 6 broad. They terminate on the south in a striking looking scarped cliff, which commands the surrounding country, and can be seen for 40 miles southward. This cliff, which gives its name to the range, is also called the "Sath Bhainee," from seven sisters who are supposed to have lived in religious seclusion on its summit. Some of the valleys in these hills have patches of rice cultivation.

Perzagurh.

Zemindaree is situated 16 miles east north-east of Chamoorsee, and contains 11 villages. The country is hilly; and grows saj, beejasal, and ebony in considerable abundance. It is attached to the Ambgaon Pergunnah.

Potegaon.

River rises in the eastern Zemindarees of Ambgaon, and after a westerly course of 20 miles, falls into the Wyngunga five miles below Gurchiroolee.

Potpooree.

River, is formed by the junction of the Wurdah and Wyngunga at Seones, and subsequently unites with the Godavary near Seroncha, where the combined stream bears the name of the latter river.

Pranheeta.

Is a village on the Andarnee river 12 miles south-east of Chimoor, possessing a very fine tank.

Pullugraon.

Zemindaree is situated 20 miles north north-east of Wyragurh, and contains 51 villages. It has the remains of a hill fort, which after

Palugunda.

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the conquest of Chanda was attached and occupied by the Mahrattas. The Zemindaree was formerly held by a Gond prince of the Wyragurh family. It is very hilly, and is attached to the Wyragurh Pergunnah.

Rajgattah.

A small village 5 miles north-east of Gurchiroolee, with a fine tank.

Rajgurh.

Pergunnah is the north-centre Pergunnah of the Mhol Tehseel. It is bounded on the north by the Gurboree Pergunnah, on the east by the Wyngunga, on the south by the Ghatkool Pergunnah; and on the west by the Pergunnahs of Ghatkool, Hawlee and Gurboree. Its area is about 447 square miles, and it contains 140 villages. It is intersected from the north by two branches of the Andarnee, which meet about its centre, and a third branch flows along its western boundary in a south-easterly direction. The west and north are hilly, and a large portion is covered with forest. The soil is chiefly sandy, producing rice and sugarcane. Teloogoo is generally spoken; the most numerous agricultural class being Kapeewar. Sonlee and Mhol are the principal towns.

This Pergunnah formerly belonged to the Gond princes of Wyragurh.

Rajoclee. Is a thriving village 8 miles north of Mhol. Three miles to the north-east of it, in a basin of the hills, is a magnificent artificial lake.

Ramdegee.

Pool, *see* Keslaboree.

Ram Teerth.

Temple, *see* Bullalpoor.

Rangee.

Zemindaree is situated 12 miles south-east of Wyragurh, and contains 17 villages. The soil is sandy, producing rice and in some places sugarcane. The eastern portion is very hilly, with a good deal of teak; but saj and mowah trees are the most common. A weekly market, attended by some 300 visitors, takes place at the village of Rangee, which is the head-quarters of the Zemindaree. At Engara there is an ancient temple, on one of whose stones is carved a warrior with a short, straight sword and a shield. The Zemindaree is attached to the Wyragurh Pergunnah.

Ranmunchun.

Village is situated 6 miles south-east of Berhampooree, at the point where the Botewaree falls into the Wyngunga. In the vicinity of this village a great battle was fought between the Manna princes of Wyragurh and Berhampooree, in which the latter was defeated.

Saigatta.

Is a small village 6 miles west of Berhampooree, possessing a fine tank.

Sogaon.

Town is situated 13 miles north-east of Wurrora, and contains 600 houses. It formerly was a place of large trade and the capital of the Pergunnah, but is now in a decaying state. A weekly market is held here on Fridays; and Octroi is levied, the farm for 1866-67 realizing rupees 600. There is an old stone fort, now in ruins, with a handsome gateway. The town also possesses a Government school for boys and a Police out-post. The principal residents are Kanho Mahadeo, Shreedhur, and Nagessoo Komtee.

Seonee.

Village is situated at the junction of the Wurdah and Wyngunga, 9 miles east of Dhaba.

Sankurpoor.

Town is situated 16 miles north north-east of Chinnoor, and

contains 500 houses, some of which are well built. There is a modern fort of earth and brick in tolerable condition. Under the Mahratta rule a cannon foundry was worked here, and some of the half-finished guns are still to be seen. Dry crops and a little rice are grown. The town has a Government school for boys.

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Town is situated 16 miles north of Mhool, and is one of the largest places in the district, containing 1,200 houses. The majority of the people are Teloogoo. About three miles north-east of the town is a very fine tank, which irrigates a wide area, rice and sugarcane being chiefly grown. Great quantities of cotton-cloths, coloured and plain, and some bangles, are manufactured for export. Trade is principally in cotton, cotton-cloths, grain, and goor. Octroi is levied, the farm for 1866-67 realizing rupees 600.

Sindwai

The town has a Government school, and a Police out-post. The leading inhabitants are Bulwuntrao Madho, Baboo Patel, Pochruddy Gandlee, and Luxumun Patel.

Sir.

River rises 3 miles north of Bhuttala, and after a southerly course of 25 miles, falls into the Wurdah, 5 miles south-west of Bhanduk.

Sircondees.

Zemindaree lies 24 miles east of Wyragurh, and contains 15 villages. It is attached to the Wyragurh Pergunnah.

Boset.

Is a village 14 miles west north-west of Wurrora, noted for a rapid of the Wurdah in its vicinity. In the winter months the river here is about 80 yards wide, of great depth, and of a pale sea-green colour. Suddenly it plunges through a rift of rock, and narrowing to a few feet, rushes down a steep incline, one seething mass of snow white water; then falls into a broad, quiet pool beneath.

The best time to visit the rapid is about the middle of October.

Bosunree.

Zemindaree is situated 14 miles north north-east of Wyragurh, and contains 21 villages. It is attached to the Wyragurh Pergunnah. The Zemindar is a Hulbah.

Soorjagurh.

Hill is a high and striking looking hill in the north of the Aheree Zemindaree.

Soorjagurh.

About the end of the seventeenth century two Chieftains, Sadho Vuria and Moola Vuria, rebelled against the king, Ram Shah, and fortified this hill, from which they made raids into the surrounding country. Ram Shah thereupon granted the tract, now known as the Aheree Zemindaree, to a relative of his name, Koksah; and Koksah after some years of desultory warfare stormed Soorjagurh, and put the insurgent leaders to the sword.

Town is situated 7 miles east of Mhool, and contains 800 houses. The population is almost wholly Teloogoo. Cotton-cloths, coloured and plain, are manufactured, and there is some trade in cotton, cotton-cloths, grain, groceries, and goor. A weekly market is held, and has an average attendance of six hundred persons. Octroi is levied, the farm for 1866-67 realizing rupees 325.

Saoles.

The town has a Government school for boys, and a school for girls will shortly be established. The principal inhabitants are Ramya Sungoorwar, Luxumun Bomunwar, and Buswya Raenchewar.

CHANDA.
Taroba or
Tadala.

Lake is situated 14 miles east of Segaoon, in a basin of the Chimoor hills, at a considerable height above the plain. It is far from any village, and though artificially embanked at one point, has all the appearance of a natural lake. Its depth is very great, and the water is believed to be of peculiar excellence.

In the early ages, so runs the legend, a marriage procession of Gaolees was passing through these hills from the west. Hot and thirsty, they sought for water and found none, when a weird old man suggested that the bride and bridegroom should join in digging for a for a spring. Laughingly they consented; and with a few spadesful of earth a clear fountain leapt to the surface. While all were delightedly drinking, the freed waters rose and spread into a wide lake, overwhelming bride and bridegroom and procession; but fairy hands soon constructed a temple in the depths, where dwell in peace the spirits of the drowned.

Afterwards on the lake side a palm appeared, which from dawn to noon shot up to meet the sun and with the sun sank down, disappearing into the earth as twilight closed. One morning a rash pilgrim seated himself upon the palm top, and was borne into the skies, where the flames of the sun consumed him. The palm then shrivelled into dust; and in its place appeared an image of the spirit of the lake, which is worshipped under the name of Taroba.

Formerly, at the call of pilgrims, all necessary vessels rose from the lake, and after being used, were washed and returned to the waters. But at last one evil minded man took those he had received to his home; they quickly vanished; and from that day the mystic provision wholly ceased.

In quiet nights the countryfolk still hear faint sounds of drum and trumpet passing round the lake; and old men say that in one dry year when the waters sank low, golden pinnacles of a fairy temple were seen glittering in the depths.

"On Lough Neagh's banks as the fisherman strays,

"On a cold calm eve's declining;

"He sees the round towers of other days,

"In the waves beneath him shining.—(*Irish Melodies*).

The lake is much visited, especially in the months of December and January; and the rites of the god are performed by a Gond. Wives seek its waters for their supposed virtue in causing children, and sick persons for the health they are believed to give.

Fish in the lake grow to a large size, the skeleton of one which was stranded some years ago measuring eight feet.

Hill, see Goonjwai.

Tekree.

Is a picturesque little village 3 miles north of Goonjwai, having in the vicinity a very fine tank.

Thogaon.

Town is situated 28 miles south south-east of Chanda, on the left bank of the Wurdah, and contains 500 houses. Dry crops are principally grown. The population is chiefly Mahrotra.

The town possesses a Government school for boys, and a Police out-post.

In the Gurboree Pergunnah, is situated 12 miles north of Sindwai, and contains 805 houses. It is a place of some importance and antiquity, though now in rather a decaying state. The trade is principally in cotton, cotton-cloths, grain and goor. The population is Mahratta, with a sprinkling of Teloogoo traders. Octroi is levied, the farm of which realized rupees 480 in 1866.

GRANDA
Tullodee.

Tullodee possesses a Goverment school for boys, a District Post Office, and a Police Station-house. The leading inhabitants are Govind Shunkur Burge, Lutchappa Komtee, Mulesoo, and Gianee Gudjulwar.

Tullodee.

In the Ghatkool Pergunnah, is situated 9 miles east north-east of Dhaba, and contains 309 houses; the population being chiefly Teloogoo. Rice is principally grown. There are the remains of an old fort, and the town shows signs of having once been a place of importance.

Waghnu.

Village is situated 6 miles north of Mahderee. It is surrounded by fine groves, and possesses an ancient temple, now falling to ruin. During the ravages of the Pindharees the wife of one of these robbers was concealed for months in a chamber in the dome, and there gave birth to a child.

Wyngunga.

River flows through the centre of the district from north to south, until it reaches Seonee, where it is joined by the Wurdah, and the united stream then becomes the Pranheeta. It is of great breadth, and in the summer months consists of long shallows, alternating with stretches of deep water. The bed is sandy, with numerous islets of many coloured rock. Some of the fish in this river are said to attain a length of from ten to twelve feet.

Wijhasunc.

Hill, *see* Bhanduk.

Wugurpet.

Hill is situated 9 miles north-east of Neree. Good iron-ore is quarried from it.

Wunna.

River flows along a portion of the western frontier, and falls into the Wurdah three miles west south-west of Mahderee.

Wurdah.

River forms the western and southern boundary of the district, until Seonee is reached, where it joins the Wyngunga, and the united stream is then known as the Pranheeta. The Wurdah is not nearly so broad as the Wyngunga, but the stream in the summer months is generally deeper. The bed has much earth mixed with its sand, and the rocks on its banks are principally sand-stone and sand-stone conglomerate.

Wurrora.

Pergunnah is the western Pergunnah of the Wurrora Tehseel; and is bounded on the north by the Wurdah and Nagpore districts; on the east by the Chimbör and Bhanduk Pergunnahs; on the south by the Wurdah; and on the west by the Wurdah and Wunna. It has an area of about 415 square miles, and contains 148 villages. The Sir traverses a large portion of the Pergunnah from north to south, and the Eerai flows along the north-eastern corner. The country generally is a rolling plain of black loam, dotted with a few isolated hills of sand-stone. Excellent cotton, wheat, jowaree, oil-seeds, chenna, and rice are grown. The chief towns are Wurrora, Mahderee, and Segaoon. The population is principally Mahratta, and the Dhunoje Koonbees form the largest agricultural class.

CHANDA.
Wurrra.

Town is the head-quarters of the Wurrra Tehseel, and the second commercial town of the district. It is situated 32 miles north-west of Chanda; and has Hingunhat 26 miles to its north-west, and Woon 12 miles to the south. It contains 975 houses; the population being Mahratta, with a sprinkling of Marwarees. A large weekly market is held here; and a considerable trade is carried on in cotton, grain, groceries, country-cloths, and salt. The Octroi farm for 1866-67 realized rupees 4,000.

Wurrra possesses a Tehseelee, a town school for boys, a girls' school, an Imperial Post Office, a Police Station-house, a Dawk Bungalow, a Serai, a handsome *pldce*, a large tank, an encamping ground, a Tehseel nursery for young trees, and a Department Public Works inspection bungalow; and a hydraulic cotton-press is in course of erection.

- An Assistant Patrol of Customs is stationed here.

The principal inhabitants are Hurba Patel, Seetaram Punt Deshpandia, and Kurneedan Marwaree.

Wurra.

Village is situated on the left bank of the Wurdah, 10 miles west south-west of Chanda, facing the mouth of the Wyngunga, which here falls into the Wurdah. On the river's bank is an old temple, with a broad flight of steps leading to the waters' edge.

It was at this village that the van of Bajee Rao's army was met and driven back by Lieut.-Colonel Hopeton Scott in April 1818, A. D.

It is intended to establish a winter fair at this place.

Wyragurh.

Pergunnah is the eastern Pergunnah of the Berhampooree Tehseel; and with its dependent Zemindaries, is bounded on the north by the Bhundara and Raepore districts; on the east by the Raepore district and Bustar; on the south by the Ambgaon Pergunnah and Zemindaries; and on the west by the Wyngunga. It has an area of about 1,960 square miles; and contains 116 Khalsa villages, and 16 Zemindaries. The Garwee river flows into the Wyngunga along the north-western corner, and the Khobragurhee, with its tributaries, intersects the Pergunnah, principally from east to west. The country is very hilly, especially in the east; and the greater portion is covered with dense forest.

The soil is generally sandy or red, producing mostly rice. The largest agricultural classes are the Gonds and the Khyra Koonbees; and the languages spoken are Mahratti, Gondce, and Hindee. The most important towns are Armoores and Wyragurh.

The Pergunnah was formerly governed by a line of Mānra chiefs, who subsequently were conquered by the Gonds, and a house of that race then held Wyragurh, Gurboree, and Rajgurh, in subordination to the Chanda kings.

Wyragurh.

Town is situated 80 miles north-east of Chanda at the confluence of the Khobragurhee and Teepagurhee. It is a place of great antiquity, and is supposed to have been founded in the Dwapar Yooga by a king of the family of the Moon, who called it Wyragurh, after his own name Wyrochun. On approaching historic times, we find the city

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ruled by Manna Chiefs, who about the ninth century fell before the Gonds; and a line of Gond princes then succeeded, holding in subjection to the Chanda kings, the Pergunnah of Wyragurh with its Zemindaries, and the Pergunnahs of Gurboree and Rajgurh.

The present fort, which is of stone, in good preservation, and of large size, was erected about the beginning of the seventeenth century.

Wyragurh now contains 936 houses, and is enclosed by noble groves of ancient trees, while around sweeps the forest, and in the centre tower the walls and bastions of the lofty fortress, forming in all a most striking picture.

Within the fort walls is the tomb of Doorgah Shah, a Gond prince and not far distant sleeps an unknown English girl, the daughter, it is said, of a Major who commanded the garrison between 1818 and 1830, A. D.

The surrounding forest contains numerous foundations of former buildings; and in the vicinity of the town are several ancient temples, the most interesting of which are one dedicated to Mahakalee, and one sacred to Mahadeo. In front of the former flows a deep reach of the Khobragurhee, and in this reach, buried in the sand, is supposed to stand an old-world temple.

Wyragurh is very unhealthy during the autumn and early winter months, and its trade has consequently been almost wholly diverted to the neighbouring town of Armooree; but the Zemindars of the north and north-east still look upon it as their capital, and many of the surrounding landholders have residences here.

Good sand-stone and granite are obtained near the town; and mines of diamonds and rubies were formerly worked in the vicinity.

Wyragurh possesses a Government school for boys, a district Post Office, and a Police Station-house; and a Patrol of Customs is stationed here.

The principal inhabitants are Chintoo Patel, Meer Murdan Ali, Futeh Khan, and Yessoo Bapoo Kosuria.

NOTE.—With the exception of one short interpolation this article was entirely written by Captain C. B. Lucie Smith, Deputy Commissioner of Chanda, who has recorded his acknowledgments of the great assistance in collecting material for the work which he received from Xesco Shco Ram of Chanda.

H MONTARA

**Boundaries
and general
description.**

The Chindwara district lies between latitude 21° and 23° north, and longitude 78° and 80° east. It has two distinct natural sub-divisions—the hill country above the slopes of the Sautpoora mountains, called the Balaghat; and a tract of lowland beneath them to the south-west, called the Yerghat. The Balaghāt may be roughly described as that section of the Sautpoora range which lies between the districts of Seonee to the east and Baitsil on the west. Northwards the district does not extend beyond the outer line of the hills above the Nerbudda valley; and on the north-west it stops at the Deinwa river within the hills; but on the south-west its boundary descends into the plain, and includes three pergunnahs which form the Yerghat, touching upon Nagpore and Berar.

*The high table-land of the Balaghat lies for the most part upon the great basaltic formation which stretches up from the south-west across the Sautpooras as far east as Jubbulpore. The country consists of a regular succession of hill and fertile valley, formed by the small ranges which cross its surface in a general direction east and west. The highest of these ridges commences on the confines of the Hurrye Jagheer, and runs westward across the district with a mean breadth of about 8 miles. Throughout its extent this ridge can be approached from the south and north only by ascending passes more or less difficult; the ascent from the south being much the easiest. A beautiful valley skirts the southern base of this highland, and is again divided by an ill-defined range of hills from a tract of broken country through which you descend to the plains of Nagpore by the Ghats.

The *average* height of the highest uplands is 2,500 feet; but there are many points very much higher; Chindwara, on the second level, is 2,200 feet; and the third step above the Ghats is about, 1,900, or 800 feet above Nagpore.

The appearance of the Yerghat below the hills is generally open and undulating. The country is intersected by several streams, of which the Kanhan is the most considerable, and is chequered by isolated hills and low ridges covered with nodular trap and lime-stone. Near the hills and along the streams are strips and patches of jungle; while the villages are often surrounded with groves of tamarind, mango, and other shade-giving trees.

Minerals,
coal.

In this district Burkoe is one of the oldest known coal fields, and has been experimentally worked since 1860 by Mr. Stanbrough, under a lease which terminates in April 1868. It was first discovered in 1852, and was mentioned by the late Reverend Mr. Hislop in his memoir "On the age of the coal strata in Western Bengal and Central India," published in the Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, Vol. XXIV, page 347. The paper was also published in 1855 in the quarterly Journal of the Geological Society of London.

* This description of the physical features of the district is taken for the most part from Sir R. Jenkin's Report on the Nagpore Province.

The mine was visited by Colonel Harley Maxwell, Chief Engineer, in 1861, when he reported that "the extent of the present known coal is decidedly limited; it measures about two feet in thickness, one foot of which may be considered good coal: the remainder has much of lignite mixed with it; but still the whole burns freely together, and will be invaluable for brick burning and other building operations. For three miles this seam is traced along the bed of a stream; and allowing this spot to extend one and a half mile on each side of the stream, there will be about nine square miles, or thirteen and a half million tons of coal."

Up to date of last report the out-turn from the Burkoee mine was some 900 tons; but, of course, this does not represent what might have been produced were a full colliery establishment employed, and were there a brisk demand for the article locally.

More recently further discoveries of coal have been made in this neighbourhood east and north-east of Burkoee, over a length of 16 miles, in the Pench valley. Mr. Blanford, Deputy Superintendent of the Geological Survey of India, reported on the eleven out-crops examined, and the Chief Commissioner agreed with that gentleman's opinion, that "these discoveries of coal-seams are the most important that have been made in India for many years," and that "it is only reasonable to believe that many other workable seams may still remain undiscovered in this neighbourhood, and that there is every probability that this portion of the great Nerbudda coal-fields equals in mineral wealth the coal-fields of the Damuda valley in Bengal."

The forests in this district are very extensive, principally on the southern slopes of the Sautpooras. They contain teak, saj, sheshum, kowah, and most of the commoner jungle trees. In the extensive forest which stretches from Deogurh eastward to the Pench river the large teak had all been cut down before it was taken in hand by the Forest Department, but some fine saj timber has escaped. These tracts, measuring in the aggregate upwards of 250 square miles, have now been reserved by the Forest Department, which is taking efficient steps to check the system of burning for cultivation, and of indiscriminate felling.

The largest rivers which in this district flow down from the Sautpoora water-shed to the south, are the Kanhan and the Pench.

This river rises in the Sautpoora hills, and after escaping from them, it takes a south-easterly direction, meandering amongst a succession of inconsiderable hills situate in the Ghurguzgurh forests; and passing close to the old Deoghur fort, now in ruins, it continues the same course until it reaches Ramakona, on the road to Nagpore, where it takes a turn more directly south, until above the latitude of Lodheekeira, where it again resumes its south-easterly course. The river receives a great accession of drainage by the junction with it of the Jam river, which falls into it just below the town of Lodheekeira. This river is not navigable, except at the very height of the monsoon, when timber is floated down it to Kamptee; the impediments to navigation are not insurmountable. The Jam rises to the west of Pandoorna, amongst the hills which separate the Chindwara from the Baitool district, near

Forests.

Rivers.

Course of the
Kanhan
river.

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The Pench river drains a very extensive area of country within the hills. Its source is on the Mohtoor plateau. In its windings it collects the waters from the centre table-land of Chindwara ; and its principal affluent, the Kolbeira, is itself a stream of considerable size. For a few miles after leaving the highlands, its course is south-easterly up to Machagora, a famous fishing locality ; thence it trends almost direct south up to the neighbourhood of Chand, where it takes an unaccountable turn northwards, and to the east, as far as the hills between the Seonee and Chindwara districts near Belpet, a Police Station, whence its course is directly south as far as Nagpore. At present there are impediments, though not insurmountable, to the navigation of the river, except in the very highest floods.

In 1864 Mr. R. Temple, Chief Commissioner of these Provinces, sketched a project for forming a vast reservoir of water, by throwing a dam across the neck of the narrow valley, by which the Pench debouches from the hills into the Nagpore valley, and thus creating a grand lake in the basin above the debouchure. The objects in view, were the irrigation of the plains near Nagpore and the supply of water to the navigable channel of the Godaverry. In the same manner a scheme for catching and storing the waters of the Kanhan, before they escape from the outer barrier of hills, has been under consideration. The great obstacle of course to the practical execution of these plans, is the greatness of the outlay which would be required.

Climate

The climate above the Ghats is temperate and healthy. In the cold season the thermometer falls low, the average temperature being from 47° to 82° in the four cold months during the past five years. Frosts are not uncommon ; and ice is frequently seen in the small tanks, at an elevation of about 2,000 feet. Until May the hot wind is very little felt ; while during the rains the weather is very cool and agreeable. In 1865 the rain-fall at Chindwara reached 37 inches.

Mohtoor

North-west of the station of Chindwara, at a distance of 34 miles, lies the plateau of Mohtoor, where a military convalescent depot has been established as an experiment, at a height between 3,500 and 4,000 feet above the sea. The following short description of this place is taken from Mr. Temple's Administration Report for 1861-62 :—

"The height above the sea is 3,500 feet. The neighbouring hills and valleys are clothed with low and thick wood. And this circumstance is calculated to injuriously affect the climate during the rainy months and the autumn. But during the winter, spring, and early summer, or more than half the year, the climate is delightful. The plateau of the hill itself is open, and generally free from jungle. The soil and water are everything that could be desired. On the northern aspect the scenery is fine. In the hot months the atmosphere is cool

and invigorating, and the sun is not overpowering. That the climate generally is beneficial to the European constitution from December to July, is beyond doubt. Whether it would be equally good from July to November, or whether fever would not during those months be prevalent, remains to be solved by experience."

CHINDWARA.

The total population of the district, according to the late census, is 327,875 persons. In the towns are the usual non-agricultural castes and classes of this part of India, with a few Marwarries, and Agurwallahs among the richer shopkeepers. Above the ghats the country people are chiefly Koonbees, Lodhees, Powars, Rajpoots, and a few Canoujea Brahmins, with Telcs, Kullars, and a sprinkling of Mahomedans in the larger villages. Along the edge and slopes of the ghats the hamlets are inhabited by Gonds and a few Gaolees. The language generally prevailing in the Balaghat (or montane) portion of the district is a mixture of Hindee, and Mahratti; while the Gonds, Korkoos, and Gaolees speak dialects of their own.

The Brahmins of the district, and some of the agricultural tribes seem to have come down from Hindustan about 180 years ago, when the first Gond Rajah of Deogurh visited Delhi, and induced some of the more civilized classes to emigrate to his dominions. The Marwarries and Agurwallahs came in with the Mahrattas. The Gaolees are herdsmen and shepherds. The Gonds and Korkoos are the descendants of the wild tribes who, whether aboriginal or not, inhabited this country before the Aryan immigrations. Of these two primitive races the language, customs, and system of worship, are quite distinct. The Gondee tongue seems somewhat allied to Tamil; while the Korkoo has some affinity with Bengalee and Ooryah; but these languages have never hitherto been scientifically studied.

Any long digression about these curious tribes would be out of place in this article. Their physiognomy classes them apart from other races. They have usually broad, flat noses and thick lips. They are simple, truthful, and good labourers; and nothing about them is more remarkable than the docility with which they have turned from a life of thieving and gang robbery under the Native rule, to settled habits and honest labour under the British Government.

The following account of the Deogurh Gond dynasty, taken principally from Sir R. Jenkins' Report on the Nagpore Province, contains in outline all that is known of the history of these obscure hill tracts before they were annexed by the Mahrattas.

History.

Tradition says that most of the country of Deogurh above and below the ghats, after being ruined and devastated by some great calamity, had been overrun and conquered by tribes of Gaolees. Ferishta indeed mentions Asa Aheer, the Gaolee Chief and founder of Asseergurh, as having rule over Gondwanah; but how he acquired it is not hinted at. Jatba, a Gond, subverted the Gaolee power above the ghats, and his descendant Bukht Boolund carried his arms south beyond Nagpore, and made conquests and acquisitions both from Mundla and Chanda.

MEERSWARA.

The origin of this family, and the steps by which it rose to a dynasty, are lost in obscurity. It is known however that Bukht Boolund visited Delhi in the time of Aurungzebe and turned Mahomedan, in order to obtain the imperial protection, taking at the same time the name by which he is known. His rule was the era of great improvement in the country which he governed. He employed Mahomedans and Hindoos of ability to introduce order and regularity into his immediate domain; industrious settlers were attracted from all quarters; agriculture and manufactures made some progress.

Bukht Boolund usually remained in the districts above the ghats, except when prosecuting his military expeditions. Towards the latter end of Aurungzebe's reign, he plundered in Berar, and extended his devastations over the districts held by the Moghuls to the southward, and westward of Nagpore. The Gond Rajahs up to this time, it appears, paid a tribute to the Emperor of Delhi, and an officer resided at one of their hamlets for the purpose of collecting it, on the part of the Foujdar of Pownar, which was the chief seat of the Moosulman Government east of the Wurdah.

The next Rajah, Chand Sooltan, resided principally in the country below the ghats, at Nagpore. On his death the Government was usurped by an illegitimate son of Bukht Boolund, whom the Mahratta Chief Rughojee put to death, and replaced by two legitimate sons of Chand Sooltan. When these two brothers Boorhan Shah and Akber Shah quarrelled, Rughojee took the side of Boorhan Shah, and after expelling Akber Shah with his adherents, the Mahratta leader gradually usurped the whole territory of the Gond prince whom he had supported. About the middle of the last century the Gond Rajah's sovereignty above the ghats became virtually extinct.

The earlier Mahratta princes are said to have managed the country well, and to have improved it; but Sir R. Jenkins records that when the districts above the ghats came under British superintendence they had suffered much from the ruinous rack-renting which had been carried to its highest excess under Rughojee II.

It should be mentioned that the mountainous parts of the country above the ghats had long been occupied by petty Gond or Koorkoo Chiefs, who were under feudal subjection first to the Gond Rajahs, and afterwards to the Mahrattas. When Appa Sahib, the Nagpore Rajah, escaped in May 1819 from the custody of a British escort, he made his escape to the territories of these Chiefs, and was there joined by the Pindaree leader Cheetoo. Appa and Cheetoo were well received and supported by the Gonds; they ravaged the neighbouring districts, and gave some trouble before the leaders could be expelled and the country pacified. When order had been permanently established, the British agents adopted the policy of allowing the petty Rajahs to retain their lands and rights as tributaries, and of making them responsible for the peaceful management of their estates. This system was entirely successful, and was still continued when the whole district

finally lapsed to the British Empire in 1854. In 1865 the Jagheers of Almode, Pugara and Puchmurree in the Mahadeo hills were transferred from the Chindwara to the Hoshungabad district. There remain with Chindwara the Jagheerdars of Hurrye, Bhutkagurh, Bundhee and others.

A short account of these families, and the extent of their estates, is here extracted from a report of 1864 by Mr. R. Temple, Chief Commissioner Central Provinces.

This Zemindaree was formerly a portion of the Hurrye Zemindaree, - and was transferred by the Hurrye family to one Khurruk Bhartee, a Gosain, who was Soobah of Jubbulpore, Mundla, and Seonee, in A. D. 1801. Khurruk Bhartee was succeeded by his disciple Dou-lut Bhartee, who died in A. D. 1854, when Kunye Bhartee was allowed provisionally to succeed; and the succession has not yet been definitely ordered upon.

The Zemindaree is situated in the north-east corner of the Chindwara district. A large portion of it consists of jungle and hill; but the portion on the eastern side is tolerably open, and is well cultivated. The Zemindaree consists of 89 villages.

A revenue demand of 570 rupees is fixed on the holding.

The Zemindar of Bhutkagurh is related to the family of the present Gond Rajah.

The Zemindaree joins Hurrye, and Sonepore to the northward and westward, and is bounded on its northern face by part of the district of Nursingspore. It lies almost due north of Chindwara, and is situated on the lofty range of hills that intersects the northern portion of the district, running from near Adeygaon on the east, to Asseer on its western border, and thence to Shahpore in the Baitol district; and on the lesser ranges that intervene between it, and the valley of the Nerbudda. It consists of 81 villages, 65 of which are inhabited.

The Government demand from the Zemindaree is 30 rupees per annum.

But the Zemindar receives an allowance of 960 rupees per annum from Government for subsistence.

This stipend was first fixed at 1,860 rupees. This was in A. D. 1820, since when it has been gradually reduced.

This Zemindar is also a Bhopa, or hereditary priest of the Mahadeo temples. The Zemindaree consists of 40 villages. The Zemindar receives 100 rupees per annum, in lieu of pilgrim tax, and he pays a revenue demand of 40 rupees to Government.

This Zemindaree also previously formed a portion of Pertabgurh, and was separated therefrom in A. D. 1827, on being given to Duryao Singh, a relative of the Thakur of Futtahpore, in the Hoshungabad district.

It consists of 14 villages, and pays a Government demand of 200 rupees per annum.

CHINDWARA.

ADEYGAON.

BHUTKAGURH.

BURDAGURH.

CHATEER.

CHINDWARA.**Goorpanee.****Gorukghat.****Hurrye.**

This is a small Zemindaree, situated between Adeygaon and Hurrye. It comprises 10 small villages, and pays no revenue to Government.

This Zemindar is also a Bhopa. His Zemindaree consists of four villages, situate in the Puchmurree hills, a little to the west of Mohtoor.

No revenue is paid by this Zemindar, and he receives 50 rupees per annum, in lieu of pilgrim tax. The present Zemindar is Joge Shah.

This used to be considered the most important of these hill Thakors. As above mentioned, the Hurrye Chief was the usual instrument employed by the Mahrattas to keep the other Chiefs of this class in order. But when Appa Sahib took refuge among them, Chyne Shah, the uncle of the Zemindar of Hurrye, joined the rest in resisting pursuit by the Mahratta Government; and it was not until his capture, in the depth of a "tremendous chasm," that the campaign under English officers, which this resistance occasioned, was brought to a close.

Since those days, however, the tracts now composing the Zemindarees of Adeygaon, Sonepore, Pertabgurh, and Chateer, have been separated from Hurrye.

The Zemindaree is situated in the mountainous tract to the north of Umurwarra, and bordering on the Nursingpore district in the Nerbudda valley. A portion lies below the ghats leading into the valley of the Nerbudda. It is bounded on the east by Adeygaon. It comprises 91 villages, of which 86 are reported to be inhabited.

There is no revenue taken from this holding. And the Zemindar receives 6,000 rupees per annum from Government.

Pertabgurh.

This formed a portion of the Hurrye Zemindaree together with Sonepore. In the early part of the present century, it became separated from Hurrye under the management of the Hurrye Zemindars brother. It has the largest area of all the Zemindarees in this quarter, and is situated to the west of Mohtoor.

It comprises 181 villages. It pays no revenue to Government.

Sonepore.

This Zemindaree lies to the south-west of Hurrye. It comprises 49 villages. The present Zemindar is the grand-son of Chyne Shah mentioned in the notice of Hurrye.

The sum of 10 rupees is levied by way of tribute from this Zemindaree.

Administration.

The district is now under the charge of a Deputy Commissioner and his Assistants, whose head-quarters, fiscal and judicial, are at the station of Chindwara.

The sub-divisions of Chindwara, and Mohgaon are under Tehseeldars who exercise petty judicial and revenue powers; Mohgaon lies below the ghats.

The stations of the district Police are at Chindwara, Kumarpancee, CHINDWARA. Oomrait, Bordye, Pandoorna, Saosur, Mokhair, Chand, Chowrye, Umurwarra. There are likewise out-posts of Police at Singaree, Beejogora, Jambye, Belpeth, Jhilmilee, Mohgaon, Lodhikhera, Bichooa, Ghorar, Ramakona, Rajna, Ombarrah, Moce, and Salyia.

Agriculture, and the mode of practising it, is in no way peculiar to the district; it is rude of its kind; and chiefly owing to the absence of system in the rotation of crops, and the non-use of manure, the produce is less than it should be. The crops depend entirely on the seasons, as with the exception of the sugarcane there is little cultivation aided by artificial irrigation. The harvests are the Khureef and Kubbee—the former gathered between September, and in some places as late as February; the latter reaped from February up to the close of May, according as the season may be an early or late one. The area under cereals is about 450,000 acres, but this estimate is exclusive of the Jageerdarees, wherein the cultivation is very inconsiderable, and the population sparse. The cotton cultivation may be estimated at about 15,000 acres, and this crop is for the most part confined to the Mohgoan sub-division. Sugarcane again is chiefly grown above the ghats; whilst the wheat producing country is mainly in the valley of the Pench, Mokhair, Chowrye and in the neighbourhood of Kunarpancee; the pulses are grown generally near Chand; and the oil seeds are nearly confined to the high table-lands near the Pench, and in the Oomrait pergannah. The cultivation of potatoes has been introduced for many years, indeed in the time of Mahratta rule it was practised; and the tuber is not only appreciated and greedily eaten by the natives, but its cultivation is steadily increasing, and the area of its cultivation is now about 5,000 acres; the produce is chiefly exported to Kamptee, but in every village bazaar it is to be seen exposed for sale; it amounts annually to about 3,000 maunds. The average land revenue rate is about 12 annas per acre on cultivated land.

The best breed of cattle is that produced in the pergannah Kumarpancee, their colour is usually white, and they have all the attributes of a pure race; in size they are large, with no great bulk of body, and are more adapted for draught than for slaughter purposes. The dewlap is unusually large, and the cattle appear to be allied closely to, if not identical with the pure Gujarat breed. The breed is much esteemed in this part of the country for their tractability, and staunchness in yoke; they are hardy, and easily kept in condition; they are quite distinct from what are called locally the Gond cattle, which is a much smaller breed, but famous as being good milk producing animals.

The animals which are destructive to human life, are the tiger, panther and bear, occasionally the hyena; there are in addition the hunting cheta, the wild dog and the wolf, which are destructive to flocks and herds; the wild boar, deer of all kinds, the sambar, neilghay, and chetul, cause incessant damage to the crops. There are other wild

cattle. Wild beasts.

CHINDWARA. animals such as foxes, jackals, and lynxes, &c. which keep down so successfully the quantity of small game in the district, that it is disproportionately scarce. But there are hares, partridges and quail; and in the cold season the district is visited by the migratory birds, such as snipe, wild fowl, and the koolung, which latter disappear after the gathering of the rubbee harvest. The bustard and florican are to be met with occasionally, but in no great numbers. In the Kumarpance jungles the bison is to be seen, and also in the hills forming part of the Sautpoora range.

Roads.

There is only one so called Imperial road, it runs between Chindwara and Nagpore. All the other communications have been classed as local. The Nagpore road has made some progress towards establishing a permanent communication; many bridges have recently been built, and the greater portion of the earth-work has been laid as far as Ramakona; the descent into the low country by the Sillawance ghat has been rendered easy, and the road there has been remarkably well chosen. The greater number of the bridges on the ghat have been constructed, but the line of road between Ramakona up to the limits of Chindwara to the south is over a very difficult country, black-cotton soil, crossed, and cut up incessantly by "nullahs," or water-courses, with deep channels and muddy beds. The remaining roads in the district are only fair weather ones, but at that season they are all quite practicable for wheeled conveyances, except towards Nursingpore. Nothing has been done yet to reduce the natural difficulties of this route, and consequently it is rarely attempted as a line of traffic by any but camels, pack-bullocks or buffaloes. Dak bungalows (resthouses) are kept up at Ramakona, and Chindwara on the imperial line, and at Oomrait and Bordye on the Baitool road; there are Serais at Pandoorna, and Ramakona.

Towns.

The chief towns are Chindwara about 76 miles north of Nagpore; Lodhikhera, on the same road about midway, situated on the Jam river; Mohgaon about 10 miles direct west of Lodhikhera, which under the Mahratta rule was always the head-quarters of the Zerghat (sub-montane) country; Pandoorna on the direct route from Nagpore to Baitool; and lastly Saosur, now the residence of the Tehseeldar. Nearly all the houses are built of mud, and, until very recently, were thatched; in this latter respect much reform is being worked by the substitution of tiles for grass.

The greater portion of the district trade is internal, but the surplus takes the direction of Nagpore, the Berar country, and Bombay.

Municipal taxation.

Local taxation is chiefly in the form of an indirect impost upon articles brought for consumption or for sale within the limits of towns. In the inconsiderable towns of Mohgoan and Saosur a direct house tax is substituted for the Octroi. The town duty collections have much increased of late.

The revenue derived from land amounts to Rs. 2,26,009,—from Akaree (excise on liquor and drugs) Rs. 68,346; Pandree (license tax) Rs. 8,000; Stamps Rs. 18,721.

The Sudder Station of Chindwara is situated on the banks of the Bodree nullah, one of the many affluents of the Kolbeira river, which again falls into the Pench river near Chand. The situation is on high ground, surrounded at the distance of some few miles by a range of low hills, the landscape being filled up midway with clumps of splendid mango trees. The soil is excellent, being for the most part of decomposed red granite. To the extreme north-west of the station the barracks of the European depot are located. The chief public buildings are the Cutcherry ; the Commissioner's circuit house ; the Jail ; the European and Native Hospital ; the Dispensary ; and the staging Bungalow. The public garden is an institution which is a great attraction. There is no Government school at the Sudder, its place is supplied by an institution under the superintendence of the Missionaries of the Free Church of Scotland. There are in the district three town schools, and twenty-seven village schools, which are periodically inspected by a district official, and visited as opportunity offers by all the officers of the district. Education is, it is believed, beginning to make some impression upon the masses ; and the movement is becoming more popular. The number of children now voluntarily attending the Government schools is 1,312.

CHINDWAR

CHUTTEESGURH.

CHUTTEES-GURH.

Chutteesgurh forms the south-eastern Division or Commissionership of the Central Provinces, and comprises the districts of Raepore, Belaspore, and Sumbulpore. The first two, Raepore and Belaspore, constitute Chutteesgurh proper; and, in so far as the physical features of both districts agree, and their past history is identical, they will be described in this place.

Their present condition as constituting district administrative charges will be treated of separately, and will be found under "Belaspore" and "Raepore" respectively.

Chutteesgurh lies between $80^{\circ} 30'$ and $83^{\circ} 15'$ of east longitude, and $16^{\circ} 50'$ to $23^{\circ} 10'$ of north latitude. On the north it is bounded by Sohagpore in the Rewah territory, and the Sirgoojah and Oodeypoor States subordinate to the Huzaree Bagh district of the Bengal Presidency; on the east by Sumbulpore; on the south by the territory of the Rajah of Bustar, a Feudatory of the Central Provinces; on the west by the Chanda, Bhundara, Seonee and Mundla districts. On the north-west corner of Chutteesgurh, being the terminal ridge of the Meikul range, which is the continuation of the Sautpoora range, stands Umerkuntuk, a well known mountain. From the sides of Umerkuntuk, which is 3,660 feet above the level of the sea, rise the Nerbulda, flowing nearly due west to the Bombay Coast, and the Soane, a tributary of the Ganges. From Umerkuntuk the hills run in an easterly direction inclining slightly northwards in a semi-circular form till a point is reached near Korba, eastward of the Husdoo river; from thence the hills run due south till they reach the valley of the Mahanuddy eastward of Seorenarrain; then re-appearing on the opposite side of the Mahanuddy they continue close to the eastern branch of that river till they connect themselves with that great southern range from which the Mahanuddy takes its rise and which bears its name. Again, from Umerkuntuk running south-west are the hills of Chilpee and Rajadhar, forming part of an offshoot of the Meikul or Sautpoora range, commonly called the Lanjee hills, but which should more properly bear the name of Salec-tekree, their principal point; below these, and still running south-west, are several irregular ranges which become blended in the Mahanuddy range. These several mountain boundaries form a vast water-shed drained by the "Great River" and its tributaries; the enclosed area consists chiefly of plains generally open, for the most part culturable, partly cultivated, partly inhabited by a considerable population, in places very rich, and on the whole, offering an enormous field for improvement. The plateau is called Chutteesgurh which means "36 gurhs" or sub-divisions of territory. They, with the rest of the Nagpore districts, were annexed to the British dominions in 1854.

During Mahratta rule the Chutteesgurh country did not improve, in some respects it probably deteriorated. During the 12 years that have elapsed since the introduction of British rule the rate of progress has been nothing like what may in future be obtained. Cultivation and

population are universally believed to be increasing ; but still at this moment Chutteesgurh is probably the most backward of all the plain or champagne districts of British India. The whole of this great plateau, though under British rule, is not exactly under British administration.

At the base of the various hills which have been described as forming the four boundaries of Chutteesgurh, there run tracts which constitute what are called Zemindaree estates, managed by their own chiefs or Zemindars. These Zemindars are of ancient origin, and some have held a feudal, and partly independent position under our predecessors, as well as ourselves. They are in some respects subject to the British Civil authorities, but in some important particulars, especially those concerning the land revenue, and landed tenures, they are masters within their own limits. Within those limits they receive all the revenue ordinarily leviable by the State ; and they maintain some sort of police, and such like establishments, at their own expense.

From each of these chiefs an annual tribute fixed for a period of years is levied by the British Government ; and besides this tribute the Government receives no other revenue from these estates. Of these Zemindaree estates, which thus constitute a sort of girdle all around the plateau, the principal in the north are those of Paindra and Mahtin ; on the east, those of Korba and Kowrea ; on the south, those of Kankeir and Lohara ; and on the west, those of Nandgaon, Khyragurh, Chooecukuzan, Kawurdah, and Pandarreah. The last named western estates are the finest of all. They are indeed strips of noble country, between the base of the Salee-tekree hills and Sheonath river, and are in fact the very finest portions of all Chutteesgurh. (These Zemindarees will be found severally described elsewhere.) There remains the centre and heart of the plateau,—British territory,—administered in the usual way. It is divided into two civil districts, viz. Belaspore, comprising the northern portion of the tract ; and Raepore, comprising the southern.

* In respect to productive resources, the plateau may be regarded in four different sections :—

- 1st.—The valley of the Sheonath, and the tract between that river and the Salee-tekree hills.
- 2nd.—The tract between Sheonath and the Husdoo rivers.
- 3rd.—The tract between the Sheonath and the Mahanuddy.
- 4th.—The tract south of Raepore, extending downwards towards the Mahanuddy.

The tract between the Sheonath and the hills has a rich soil ; in some places red, in others black ; and as already stated, belongs to the western Zemindaree estates. It is the principal cotton field in Chutteesgurh, and the cotton grows on the red soil as well as on the black. The culture was, up to a recent period, insignificant, but it is fast increasing. Besides cotton this tract also produces sugarcane (of middling quality as yet) ; also ^{lahanuddy} ~~lahanuddy~~ ^{part of} excellent quality ; besides linseed and

**CHUTTEES-
GURH.**

other oilseeds of various sorts. The principal mart for this tract is Kawurda.

The tract between the Sheonath and the Husdoo has a darkish clayey soil, producing abundant harvests of rice, wheat and pulses. It is quite open, fairly cultivated, and fairly populated; almost every village has its tank, and every tank has its grove of trees; but the fields are bare of foliage. The tract between the Sheonath and the Mahanuddy has chiefly a reddish soil, yielding fine crops of rice, wheat, and oilseed, and some sugarcane. Here also there are numerous tanks and groves; otherwise the country is bare of foliage, and there is but little jungle. It is strange that, situated in the midst of territories where the forests are so superabundant and overwhelming, the plateau of Chutteesgurh itself is so destitute of wood and shrubs that fuel has to be obtained from long distances. The tract south of Raepore is, in essential characteristics, similar to that last named, but as it proceeds southwards the country becomes poorer, scrubby jungle begins to appear, till at length the greater forests and the hills encroach upon the plain.

* The climate is, on the whole, good. There is sickness at certain seasons, owing to excessive moisture; and in most villages the people injure their constitutions by drinking water from swampy and dirty tanks. Wells for the supply of drinking water to the inhabitants are now being sunk in almost every village. Deadly epidemics are not unfrequently prevalent. Owing to the vicinity of hills and forests all round the plateau, the rains are so regular and copious that droughts are unknown, and artificial irrigation is not attempted. So good and moist is the soil, that even sugarcane can be raised without regular irrigation. But this plateau, so propitiously endowed by nature, is but an oasis surrounded by comparatively desolate regions. Though in itself rich, it is on all its four sides cut off from civilization. Its trade, though absolutely not inconsiderable, is yet out of all proportion small, as compared with the population and the produce of the country; one consequence is, that the produce, especially that of the cereals, is so superabundant beyond the demand of consumption on the spot, that some years back the prices of produce used to be even four times less in Chutteesgurh than elsewhere, and the corn even rotted in the stacks for want of a sale.

Sport.

* Chutteesgurh is a district which offers great excitement and amusement to the sportsman; in the hot weather months, tigers, and leopards are found in the vicinity of the several streams and rivers which intersect the district; in the hills bears also are abundant. In the hills to the north the elephant, till lately sole master of the position, ranged over a picturesque tract of country; and so serious had the devastations of these animals become that in 1864 it became necessary to establish a Government khedda for their capture. (During the two seasons of 1865-66 and 1866-67 there were 117 elephants caught.) To the east of the district, the wild buffalo may be pursued over plains stretching as far as the eye can reach, and in every direction the antelope, the spotted deer, and other varieties of game may be met with.

CHUTTEES-
GURH.
Area.

The area of the plains of Chutteesgurh is computed at about 10,000 square miles; including most of the Zamindaree estates; but excluding tracts of hill and forest it is supposed that about half, or 5,000 square miles, may be cultivated. Of the remainder at least a considerable portion is culturable, and fit for cultivation. If all the outlying hill and forest tracts attached to the Raepore and Belaspore districts be included, then the total area of hill, forests, and plains may amount to 20,000 square miles. Some parts of the Sheonath valley near Droog, are splendidly cultivated, with scarcely an acre of waste to spare. But in all other parts of the plateau, there is great room for increased cultivation within the area of every village. In the plains, the culturable waste is generally interspersed with cultivation. There are no large prairies, no uninterrupted expanses of rich land awaiting only the plough and the tiller. But there are numerous pieces and patches of culturable waste scattered among the villages and fields. There is, therefore, not much scope for European settlement, nor for sale of waste lands, in the plains of Chutteesgurh. The greatest proportion of waste will probably be found in the tract known by the name of Lowun, south of the Sheonath and the Mahanuddy; in Kullaree and Sahawa, on the left bank of the Mahanuddy; in Sunjaree and Balode, south of Raepore; in the tract south-west of Ruttunpore, known as Loormee and Beejapore; also in the tracts of Kankeir near Dhumterry.

The population of Chutteesgurh, according to the census, is 2,103,165. The races which inhabit this part of the country are the same in caste and religious prejudices as those found in other parts of India. Their social rules are somewhat stricter, probably their isolated position prevents those gradual modifications in ancient customs which have elsewhere resulted from the pressure of circumstances. Their clothing and diet still indicate a primitive simplicity. A narrow cloth about the loins, is almost universally the only clothing in use. They wander in the sun and toil in their fields with the head perfectly unprotected, and exhibit in this respect a marvellous capacity for exposure. Their diet is almost entirely rice, eaten once at night and again cold as gruel in the morning. It is then called "bassie," and without this morning gruel no man will enter on the business of the day. These habits are not found among the poor only, they are peculiar to all classes, and it is only of late years that village head-men and others on coming before official superiors assume more clothing. Taking the community as a whole, it will be found that the Chumar caste maintain here a numerical preponderance. They are not however leather-workers, like so many of their brethren in other parts of India; on the contrary, they are eager and industrious agriculturists, and nearly a fourth of the cultivation of the district must be in their hands. Having changed their traditional occupation, it has so happened that they have also changed their traditional faith. About 50 years ago a large portion of their body passed through a religious reformation, throwing over Brahminical teachings, and evolved a new faith, what may be styled a Hindooized deism. This strange movement had its origin at Girode, a small hamlet in the Belaspore district, on the south bank of the Mahanuddy and on the borders of the Sonekan estate. In April 1824 this place was visited by a Chumar named Ghassi Doss,

Population.

Chumars.

CHHETEES
GURU.

who was a religious enthusiast smarting under the ignominy with which his caste was regarded; and filled with the aspiration of raising its status under the alleged sanction of a special inspiration from heaven. The spot selected was favourably situated for the performance of so responsible a mission. Secluded and isolated, far removed from the busy haunts of men, from the taunts and jeers of those holding a higher social position, the shrewd Chumar, once located here, found all the circumstances favourable for commencing his strange prophetic career. He was accompanied by a few devoted followers who shared his enthusiasm and credited his mission. Leaving them at Girode he mounted the rocky eminence overhanging that town, and disappeared into the distant forest. His departing injunction indicated that in six months he would return from the wilderness if in the interim a revelation was vouchsafed to him. If, however, the Chumars were to continue ever degraded and despised, if heaven had no new message for them, then his followers might rest satisfied that he had fallen in the wilderness a victim to starvation, or the ravages of wild animals. The news of this strange proceeding spread among the Chumar body. It raised their hopes, excited their imagination, and led to a general expectation of some important event at the lapse of the six months' interval which had been indicated. As the close of that period approached Chumars from all parts of this district flocked to Girode. The scene as described by an eye-witness was strange and impressive. The roads leading to this hitherto unfrequented hamlet were traversed by crowds of anxious pilgrims. The young and old of both sexes swelled the throng, mothers carrying their infants, and the aged and infirm led by stronger arms. Many died by the way, but the enthusiasm was not stayed. Arrived at the spot, the plain skirting the rocky eminence presented to the eye a vast multitude of human beings divided into different knots discussing anxiously the strange crisis which had brought them there. At last the long looked for day arrived, and with it the realization of the hopes of this hitherto despised community. In the quiet of the early morn their self-appointed prophet was seen descending the rocky eminence, and as he approached was greeted with the acclamations of the assembled crowd. He announced to the expectant multitude how he had been miraculously supported for the long interval of six months in the wilderness, how he had held communion with the Higher Powers, and then gradually unfolded the special message which he had been empowered to deliver. In substance this message enjoined that adoration of idols should cease, that Chumars should for the future worship the Maker of the universe without any visible representation or sign, and that he, Ghassi Doss, had been selected High Priest to the Chumar community, whose eldest representative in all time should fill the office, and should be the medium of any further revelation. There were special diet rules prescribed, assimilating the customs of the Chumar in this respect to those of the Brahmins, and making them in fact rather more stringent. The message delivered, the bulk of those present adhered to the new system, and they and their descendants have been since called "Sutnamees." They acknowledge no superiority of caste in Brahmins, neither do they any longer celebrate Hindoo festivals, nor make the customary offeri

CHUMARS-
Caste.

shrines like other castes of Hindoos. They are Deists freed from Hindoo traditions but clogged with Hindoo prejudices, and distinctively recognize a hereditary High Priest within their community. Their present High Priest is Augur Doss, a son of Ghassi Doss, the author of the new Faith. Ghassi Doss himself died full of years about the year A.D. 1850. He was succeeded by his eldest son Baluk Doss who donned the Brahminical thread as a token of his social equality with the Brahmins, and was in consequence murdered near Raepore in 1861. On his death his youngest brother Augur Doss succeeded to the office of High Priest, an office which he still holds. This class of deistical Chumars now numbers at least 200,000. They are a thriving and industrious race, occupying a very important position as cultivators and village headmen in the Belaspore district. They are regarded naturally with hatred and contempt by the Brahmins and other castes of Hindoos, which their ever reiterated assertion of equality only tends to aggravate. The idea that such social refuse as Chumars should by any change of religious belief acquire a higher social standing is galling and painful to the Brahmin mind. On the other hand, there can be no doubt that this change in their faith has practically changed their character by creating an independence of spirit to which they were formerly strangers. In many respects the feeling of antagonism which exists between them and the higher castes of Hindoos is to be regretted. It has, however, engendered among "Sutnamees" a wish to learn in order to remove one formidable barrier which degraded them in the eyes of the enlightened class, hitherto the repositories of all knowledge. This desire is a good omen as regards future progress and improvement among the community, and indicates the field as a favourable one for Christian Missionary enterprise.

In addition to Chumars there is a large sprinkling of Brahmins, Rajpoots, Koormees and Rawuts. These, however, have no distinctive peculiarity. The Mahomedan element exists to a very limited extent, and in a very modified form. The Mahomedans are poor and unimportant, and maintain largely the customs of Hindoos,—celebrating Hindoo festivals, and respecting Hindoo traditions. Turning, however, from the plain to the hilly tracts of the district we find a complete change in the nature of the community. In the latter, Gonds, Bhoomiahs, and Bygas are the sole inhabitants. The Gonds are partially civilized, and carry on to some extent a rude system of cultivation. The Bhoomiahs, on the other hand, seem thoroughly uninfluenced by the progress of events at their very thresholds. Their home is the wilderness. They mix little with other classes. They rarely approach the open plain. They migrate into more remote forests if their hamlets are resorted to. They hunt much, being adepts with the bow and arrow. They cultivate little, they relish largely the spontaneous products of the woods, and they live more as isolated families, than as communities. Thus then, though the people generally are in a backward state, we have in striking contrast to the bulk of them, still ruder and more barbarous races who will yet fly from the approach of the white man.

Brahmins, &c.

Agricultural arrangements are of the most primitive character: it is customary for the landlord of a village to change the fields of his

Agriculture.

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CURH.**

tenants every third or fourth year, in order that every man may have his turn of the best piece. If this were refused, the tenant would migrate to another village,—so little regard have the tenantry for the occupancy of particular fields and so great is the demand for their labour on the superabundant land.

Witchcraft.

Among people of this district a belief in witchcraft and in evil spirits is universal, leading not unfrequently to the commission of the most atrocious crimes. When unusual numbers of deaths have occurred in any village or in any particular family, they are attributed to witchcraft, and the following method is adopted for discovering the witch or wizard. A pole of a particular wood is erected on the banks of a stream, and each suspected person after bathing, is required to touch the pole, and it is supposed that when this is done the hand of the person in whom dwells the evil spirit, swells. No rules are laid down for attaching suspicion to any particular person, for persons of all ages and both sexes (though women are generally the victims) are selected and accused upon the most whimsical and arbitrary grounds, while the treatment which they receive varies according to the amount of inventive genius for torture possessed by the inhabitants of the village; shaving the head with a blunt knife, knocking out two front teeth, firing the buttocks, tying the legs to a plough-share, seating in the sun and administering a portion of the water of a tannery,—are the usual orthodox methods of exorcising the evil spirit; and scourging with rods of tamarind tree or castor oil plant is never neglected, as these are supposed to possess some peculiar virtue in respect of witches.

Education.

Education up to 1862 was almost unknown; when an educational system was commenced, there was nowhere found in Chutteesgurh, save in the town of Raepore itself, one institution that could be called a school, or a single person who could be called a school-master. There are now, however, in Chutteesgurh, Government schools for boys, schools for girls, and indigenous schools affording education to children. The language of the people of the plains is a corrupt dialect of Hindee, commonly called Chutteesguree. The Gonds and some of the other hill tribes have languages peculiar to themselves.

Roads.

The existing traffic connected with Chutteesgurh follows several land routes. The principal of these, is that now known as the eastern line, which runs from Nagpore to the Mahanuddy. By this line the cotton and surplus grain of Chutteesgurh is conveyed on carts to Nagpore. After leaving the Chutteesgurh limits it passes through the jungle country in a westerly direction, till it reaches the Wyngunga, and crossing that river at Bhundara, proceeds due west to Nagpore. During the winter months this road is literally blocked and choked up with endless strings of carts laden with cotton and all sorts of cereal produce. From Chutteesgurh the line proceeds eastward till it touches the Mahanuddy at Sumbulpore, having a branch to Binka, also on that river. For the greater portion of this line—from Nagpore to the Mahanuddy—surveys, plans, and estimates have been prepared by the Public Works Department, and several sections of it are under construction. There are also two other roads, one north and the other south,

CHUTTEES-
GURH.

running parallel to the main line, by which the produce of the valley of the Sheonath is conveyed to Nagpore: one of these passes from the north-west corner of the valley through Khyragurh, and skirting the apex of the Salee-tekree plateau, proceeds a little south of Amgaon and Thurora, in the Bhundara district, and passing the Wyngunga near Moharee, proceeds direct to Kamptee. This route is traversable by carts after the rice is off the ground, and is much used. The other passes from the south of the valley of the Sheonath through the hilly country of Cheezgurh, and, crossing the Wyngunga below Bhundara, proceeds direct to Nagpore. The latter route is difficult, and only available for pack bullocks; but both are considerably used. At present the Great Eastern line, with its northern auxiliary route, is the only one on which the principal carriage consists of carts.

For the other lines now to be mentioned, the carriage consists chiefly of pack bullocks. Of these lines, the first to be noted, is that from Raepore to Jubbulpore by the Chilpee pass, which leads from the north-west corner of the Chutteesgurh plateau, across the mountains to Mundla, on the Nerbudda, and thence to Jubbulpore. This has heretofore been an unimportant line; it is now in parts under survey, and in parts under construction; and it has recently been made passable for carts in fair weather. Again, from the upper extremity of Chutteesgurh, near Ruttunpore, there run northwards two hilly routes; one of which, winding round the Umerkuntuk mountains, falls into the valley of the Soane near Sohagpore; and thence proceeding onwards joins the Great Deccan road near Rewah, *en route* to Mirzapore; while the other, passing the mountains which overlook the plains of Chutteesgurh, and crossing the undulating and upland country of Sirgoojah, passes the Soane near Mirzapore, and so reaches that great mart. These last named routes are used solely by pack bullocks. Another route follows the banks of the Mahanuddy downwards from Seoreenarrain, and passing by the towns of Chunderpore, Puddumpore, Sumbulpore, Binka, Sonepore, Boad, and Kuntaloo, so reaches Cuttack. This road has been more or less roughly made throughout; and in the section below Boad it has been greatly improved under orders of the Bengal Government. Portions of it are traversed by carts at certain seasons. There is a direct road from Seoreenarrain to Binka and Sonepore, which at seasons, has traffic; it passes through the Gurjat State of Sarungurh, and is greatly frequented by pilgrims from the North-Western Provinces going to Jug-gunnath. There is also a direct road from Sumbulpore to Cuttack *via* Ungool. This is partly made for purposes of postal communication, but it has not any traffic worthy of mention.

Again, there is a route from Raepore across the countries of Khurriar, Patna, and Kalahundee, to Ganjam on the eastern coast; and it is by this route that the supplies of salt for all Chutteesgurh are brought. This is one of the wildest and most unhealthy routes in all India, though it is at present a most important one. Lastly, there is the route from Dhumerry, south of Raepore, which crosses the wilderness of Bustar, a desparately bad country, and joins the Godavary at Seroncha. The improvement of this latter route is in contemplation.

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These routes, even those most wild and unhealthy, are traversed by troops of pack bullocks, often several hundreds in number, and sometimes numbering even thousands. They belong to a peculiar class of men, named Brinjars, or Bunjars, who are both traders and carriers. These men are of a daring and adventurous character, and are habituated to the most insalubrious climates.

In order to exhibit at one glance the extent to which land carriage, generally over rugged country is made use of in this part of India, at considerable expense,—at some risk of human life and health, and with great wear and tear of cattle and carriage,—it may be well to state the distances of the various routes above mentioned:—

		Miles.
From Raepore to Cuttack via Arung and Sonepore	...	339
" Raepore to Nagpore	...	183
" Raepore to Sumbulpore direct	...	163
" Raepore to Sonepore	...	130
" Raepore to Jubbulpore via Mundla	...	218
" Khyragurh to Nagpore	...	180
" Sheonath river via Cheesgurh to Nagpore	...	125
" Ruttunpore via Sohagpore to Mirzapore	...	305
" Ruttunpore via Sirgojah to Mirzapore	...	299
" Seoreenarrain via Sumbulpore and Sonepore to Cuttack	...	313
" Sumbulpore to Cuttack via Ungool	...	155
" Raepore to Ganjam	...	339
" Raepore to Seroncha	...	230

History.

On the early history of this part of the country even tradition throws no light. There can be little question, however, that the aborigines were Gonds, and that the country passed from them to the Rajpoot Hy-Hy-Bunsee dynasty which ruled at Ruttunpore. For many years there seems to have been a perpetual struggle between the Hindoos who under their Rajpoot chiefs had migrated here and the wilder inhabitants of the country. As a result we find that the primary characteristic of the first positions taken up by the Hindoos is one of security. They built fortresses on high plateaus from whence they could descend for a raid on the plains, and returning with their spoil lodge it in safety with their women. The increasing strength of the Hindoos, their greater resources as representing a higher civilization in time ensured their triumph over the wilder and weaker race, and this led to the establishment of a capital which was fixed at Ruttunpore. This event occurred under a Rajah named Prita Deo about the year A. D. 950. From that period the gradual clearance and cultivation of this part of the country commenced. Tracts were given to warriors to whose valour the Chief owed his position, to favourites of various kinds, and to aboriginal Gonds of position and influence whose good-will it was important to secure. In this way the Hy-Hy-Bunsee dynasty of Chutteesgurh became consolidated, and hamlets and towns began to spring up where hitherto there was nothing but the solemn silence of the forest.

In common with other Hindoo dynasties the origin of the Hy Hy Bunsee rajahs is carried back to the most remote antiquity, i. e. through the 17 lakhs of years which comprised the Suttjoog epoch to the origin of mankind by the creative act of the great Brahma. The Hy Hy Bunsee was a Chuttree dynasty. It is unnecessary, however, to refer to transactions occurring in this epoch, in reference to which oriental imagination revels in impossibilities, the recital of which creates astonishment at the simple faith which in any age could credit them.

After the lapse of the Suttjoog period and before the commencement of the Sumbut era, 3,044 years of the old Hindoo calendar, or "judister," era elapsed. During this period, as is shewn in the Hy Hy genealogical table, only eight rulers are supposed to have reigned, which would give to each rajah on an average a reign of over 300 years. In fact some of them are recorded as having ruled for nearly 500 years. Such marvellous longevity accorded to those who lived in the remote past is not peculiar to the chronicles of the Hy Hy dynasty, and is attributable to that great respect for the past which characterizes all nations in certain stages of civilization, and makes them concede to the ancients, virtues and powers which the pygmies of the present cannot achieve.

Tradition asserts that at the end of the Suttjoog period a monarch named Soodhyoom presided over the destinies of the East. Of his descendants one son, Neela Dhwuj, got the throne of Muhestmuttee, or Mundla; a second, Humsa Dhwuj, became monarch of Chunderpoor, supposed to be Chanda ; and the third received the kingdom of Ruttunpore then called Munipore, by which name alone it is known in the Purans. The two former kingdoms of Mundla and Chunderpore after the lapse of some generations were overthrown by the Gonds, and the Munipore or Ruttunpore kingdom alone survived till the advent of the Mahrattas.

The first rajah of whom anything of a veritable character is recorded is Kurupal, who reigned from Sumbut 172 to 251 (A. D. 115 to 194). He made a city at Amurkuntuk and raised temples there. He consecrated the spot as the source of the Nerbudda, and from that time it has been considered a holy and worthy object of pilgrimage among Hindoos.

Between Sumbut 367 and 407 (A. D. 310 to 370), a successor of Kurupal, called Mohunpal, built a city called Dhunpore on a high flat hill between Paindra and Amurkuntuk. There was a formidable fort erected here called Ujmeeergurh, and the place was many years a great stronghold, and thickly peopled. Although centuries have passed since its greatness vanished there can still be seen on this plateau, amidst the towering saul trees, remains of walls, tanks and enclosures, which evidence the prominent position it formerly occupied.

Jugutpal who reigned from Sumbut 427 to 478 (A. D. 370 to 421) built the city of Droog, and named it after his rani (queen). He also erected the temples at Rajim on the bank of the Mahanuddy, where an annual fair is still held. He has the reputation of having been a great

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warrior and having added to his dominions. No detail, however is obtainable as to the countries he conquered, and it is probable he was engaged in petty wars consolidating his territories.

In the year Sumbut 745 (A. D. 688) on the death of Mohun Deo, his two sons Sree Deo and Brumma Deo divided the kingdom, the elder branch remaining at Ruttunpore and the younger proceeding to Raepore. The latter however was to a certain extent subordinate to the former. The Ruttunpore Raja ruled over Belaspore, Sirgoojah, and Sumbulpore. The Raepore ruler held the present district of Raepore, with Bustar and Karonde. These seem to have been the limits of the Hy Hy Bunsee Rajahs for many years, in fact until the arrival of the Mahrattas.

The old city of Ruttunpore was built and made the capital by Prithee Deo between 909 and 952 Sumbut (A. D. 852 to 895). Up to this period the capital was called Munipore, and situated on the top of the Laffa hill, about 15 miles north of Ruttunpore. There is a large expanse of table-land on the top of this hill, which stands at an elevation of about 3,400 feet above the sea. The remains of a fort, tanks, temples and buildings are still apparent, and the position possessed the advantages of prominence and security.

From Sumbut 895 to 1,620, beyond the record of some temples erected and towns established, of which now no traces remain, the Brahminical narrative is occupied with the imaginary virtues of different rulers. In Sumbut 1,620* (A. D. 1569) however, the influence of the Mahomedan house of Delhi was felt, even here; and Rajah Kullian Sing proceeded to Delhi with the view of being acknowledged as ruler of the Ruttunpore territory. He was acknowledged, and he and his successors continued to pay tribute to the royal house of Delhi.

The Hy Hy Bunsee dynasty continued in undisturbed possession of the Ruttunpore raj till the year A. D. 1741-42, when Bhasker Pundit's army attacked and defeated Rajah Raghonath Sing at Ruttunpore; Raghonath himself died in A. D. 1745, and left no heirs.

The Raepore branch of the family shared the same fate. Umer Sing the Rajah, however, carried on the government subordinate to the Mahrattas till 1812 Sumbut (A. D. 1755), when Bimbaji Bhonslah assumed the government himself, and allowed Umer Sing a grant of one rupee from each village. This allowance, as also a rent-free village, was continued to Umer Sing's son Muaj Sing. In Sumbut 1879 (A. D. 1822), however, Mr. Jenkins granted the successor of Muaj Sing, Rughonath Sing, five rent-free villages in lieu of the allowance of one rupee from each village enjoyed by his father. Rughonath Sing still survives, and is now the representative of the Hy Hy Bunsee line—a quiet, simple-minded Rajpoot, showing no indications of a distinguished ancestry.

The recognized extent of the Ruttunpore kingdom included the present districts of Raepore, Sumbulpore, Belaspore with Sirgoojah. The Ruttunpore Brahmins certainly believe that many centuries back Bengal, Cuttack, and the Carnatic, were also subject to the sway of

the Ruttunpore rajahs; but there is no evidence to support such a dream, and the whole account of so extensive an empire is very visionary; the districts above mentioned in all probability alone formed the territory of the Hy Hy Bunsee sovereigns.

The rulers never seem to have been a powerful race, possessed of standing armies, and capable of carrying on extensive warlike operations. The long existence of the dynasty must be attributed to the geographical features of the country, and partially perhaps to its poverty. The territory was surrounded on all sides by ranges of hills, and offered formidable obstacles to an invading force, either from north or south. When at last the Mahrattas invaded Chutteesgurh, on their way to Bengal, the dynasty fell almost without a struggle.

The remains of the former dynasty now existing only consist of temples scattered over the country and the ruins of former forts and buildings. None of these seem to have possessed any architectural beauty, nor do they exhibit any traces of refined taste. They evidence that the people had arrived at a certain rude state of civilization, and then remained stationary; nor are there any symptoms apparent of a progressive civilization. In fact it is not improbable that we found the people at the commencement of our rule very little changed in their social feelings, habits of thought, and general acquirements, from what the condition of their ancestors was six centuries before.

In 1741-2, as already stated, the Mahratta authority was partially established in Chutteesgurh during the expedition of Bhasker Punt to Bengal. In 1745 Rughojee Bhonslah sent an expedition into Chutteesgurh under Biswundhur Punt, who conquered and deposed the last of the Rajpoot kings named Rughonath Sing, but afterwards entered into a treaty with him by which the affairs of the country were to be conducted conjointly by Rughonath Sing and himself. Shortly afterwards Biswundhur Punt having had occasion to proceed to Calcutta he nominated one Kullian Gir Gosain to act for him in his absence, but dying on the road, his *locum tenens* Kullian Gir Gosain, was thrown into prison by Rughonath Sing the old Rajah. These proceedings having become known to Rughojee, while on his way to Calcutta in 1745, he finally removed Rughonath Sing, allowing him a small jageer for maintenance, and invested a natural son of his own named Mohun Sing with the management of Chutteesgurh. He administered the affairs of the district for 8 years and died in A. D. 1753. In this year Rughojee also died after reigning 17 years leaving four sons: Janojee, Sabajee, Moodajee and Bimbajee, and during a difference regarding the succession between Janojee and Moodajee, (sons of Rughojee by different wives) one Ranojee, the brother-in-law of Mohun Sing, assumed charge of Chutteesgurh which he held for a year. In A. D. 1755 Janojee sent his youngest brother Bimbajee to Chutteesgurh, which he allotted to him as an appanage; and the Mahratta rule was now extended over the whole of Chutteesgurh, Sumbulpore and the neighbouring Zemindarees. Bimbajee held the district for not less than 32 years, when he died in the year A. D. 1787 leaving a widow Ranee Anundee Baee who managed it for a year. She was then relieved by one Yeshwunt Rao Bhuwanee, appointed Soobah

Mahratta
rule.

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from Nagpore. Since that time the district has been under Soobahs, with the exception of the interval during which the province of Nagpore was under the superintendence of the British Government,—from 1818 to 1829—until its annexation in 1854. In A. D. 1803 Rughojee having united with Scindia to oppose the objects of the treaty of Bassien, two victories obtained over the united armies of these Chiefs at Assaye and Argaon led to the treaty of Dargaon with Rughojee, by the provisions of which he was deprived of a great part of his territories, and among others, of Sirgoojah, Sumbulpore, Patna, Koreal and Nawagurh-Bhendry attached to Chutteesgurh, and bordering on its present northern and western limits. Although these districts were in A. D. 1806 restored and re-annexed to the Nagpore State, they were resumed during the arrangements consequent on the defection of Appa Sahib in 1818 and transferred to Chota Nagpore.

As a fit conclusion to this article on Chutteesgurh it will be proper to describe in this place the river "Mahanuddy," which runs through each of the three districts comprising the Chutteesgurh division or Commissionership.

Mahanuddy.

The Mahanuddy or "Great river," is one of the largest and most important rivers in the Central Provinces; it rises about 25 miles south of Raepore in a mountainous region which bounds the Chutteesgurh plateau on the south and divides it from the Bustar country. This region is probably the wildest of all the wild parts of the Central Provinces. Thence the river flows in a northerly direction past the towns of Dhumterry, Rajim, and Arung, and so arrives at a point named Seoreenarrain. Thus far it has been a comparatively insignificant stream, and it is rarely used for purposes of navigation. But near here it is joined by three affluents, the Sheonath or Sew river, the Jonk, and the Husdoo.

The Jonk is a stream which rises in the same hills as the Mahanuddy itself; it is never navigated. The Husdoo, rising in the north, in the uplands of Sirgoojah, flows nearly due southwards till it joins the Mahanuddy. Owing to many barriers in its course this river is very rarely navigable. In high floods boats of fair size can ascend from the Mahanuddy 15 or 20 miles, but as the country in the vicinity of the river is wild and sparsely populated, boats laden with traffic rarely ascend. In the hot and cold weather months the Husdoo is a very insignificant stream.

The Sheonath up to the confluence, is a finer stream than the Mahanuddy. It joins the Mahanuddy at a place named Deveeghat, a little above Seoreenarrain. It rises in the range which separates Chutteesgurh from the Nagpore country, and is used for purposes of navigation for the last 50 or 60 miles of its course. It is probably navigable during the rainy months from a point named Droog, distant 135 miles from the junction, and certainly from a point named Nandghat, 75 miles above the junction with the Mahanuddy.

The streams falling into the Sew prior to its joining the Mahanuddy are the Aagur, Haap, Muniaree, Urpa, Kharounde, Leelagur.

The Aagur rises in the Sautpoora range, and after following an easterly course for 40 miles, falls into the Sew near Nandghat. Except at floods it is a very insignificant stream, and is not navigable. The water of this stream is partially used for purposes of irrigation.

The Haap stream also rises in the Sautpoora range, keeping an easterly course north of the Aagur, and flows eventually into the Muniaree prior to the junction of the latter with the Sew. The Haap is fordable during the monsoon except in floods, and in the dry months has a very small channel, much of the water being dammed for irrigation. It is never navigable.

The Muniaree rises in the Meikul range in the north-west extremity of the Belaspore district. After breaking through the hills it runs south to the town of Lormee, then south east past the towns of Bejey-poor and Tukhutpoor, and after a course of 60 miles falls into the Sew at Bhojpooree. This stream has a wide straggling bed, but except at intervals in the rains contains no volume of water. In the hot and cold weather months many parts of its bed are quite dry. In other places there are arms of the stream containing stretches of water which are utilized for purposes of irrigation.

The Urpa rises in the rugged range north of Kainda, and pursuing a southerly course past the town of Belaspore, falls into the Sew near a village called Oortum. It is not navigable, though its waters are to some extent utilized for purposes of irrigation. In the dry months the stream is very insignificant, but during the monsoon at floods it carries a large volume of water.

The Kharounde, rises under the Laffa hill range, and pursues a southerly course east of the Urpa, flowing into the latter prior to its joining the Sew river; except during sudden floods it is a very insignificant stream.

Again, east of the Kharounde is the Leelagur, possessing the same characteristics. It rises below the Bitkala peak and pursuing a southerly course through the plain for 30 miles, falls into the Sew near Mulhar.

From the town of Mulhar the Mahanuddy, considerably increased in volume, and quite navigable during the greater part of the year, takes an easterly course for above 60 miles, passing by Chunderpoor to a point near Puddumpoor. During this space it is joined by two feeders, the Mand and the Kailoo, running downwards to it from the north. Though these are small streams, yet they would, at certain seasons, carry country boats for at least a short distance above their junction with the Mahanuddy. The former of these rivers is navigated for a short distance.

Near Puddumpoor the Mahanuddy river changes its course to a southerly direction, and enters a series of rocks, which crop up all over its bed, and split it into streamlets for several miles, thereby rendering it, if not unnavigable, at least very difficult of navigation. Then it is joined by the Ebe, a stream of similar character, flowing from the north-east and partially navigable. Then again, struggling through masses of

CHUTTEES-
GURK
MAHANUDDY.

Aagur.

Haap

Muniaree.

Urpa.

Kharounde.

Leelagur.

CHUTTEES-
GURH
MAHANUDDY

rocks, the Mahaunddy flows past Sumbulpore. There its course is less obstructed, but it is occasionally interrupted by mighty rocks, the terror of boatmen, standing up in midstream, and realizing the exact notion of Scylla and Charybdis. Thence it passes by Binka and Sonepore, at which latter place it is joined by the Tel.

This Tel river rises far down to the south in the hills near Joonagudda in the Kalahundy State, and flows north-east till it joins the Mahanuddy, having run a course of about 200 miles. For several months in the year it is quite navigable by country boats and is already so navigated.

Below Sonepore, the Mahanuddy, taking an easterly course, pursues a tortuous way, cribbed, confined, and tossed about between ridges, and ledges, and crags of rocks, for many miles, yet still struggling and rushing onwards with some velocity, till passing Boad, (the capital of a State of that name) it reaches a place called Dholepore. After this, its troubles and vicissitudes among the rocks come to an end; and rolling its unrestrained waters along, it makes straight for the range of the eastern ghat mountains. Then it pierces the mountains by a gorge, about 40 miles in length, slightly inferior in grandeur, but equal in beauty to the gorge of the Godaverry. There overlooked by hills, and shaded by forests on either side, it flows deep and quiet, navigable at all seasons. Emerging from the hills, it expands its bed, and spreads itself over sands, till it reaches Cuttack, where the delta commences by which it emerges into the Bay of Bengal.

GAZETTEER

OF THE
CENTRAL PROVINCES.

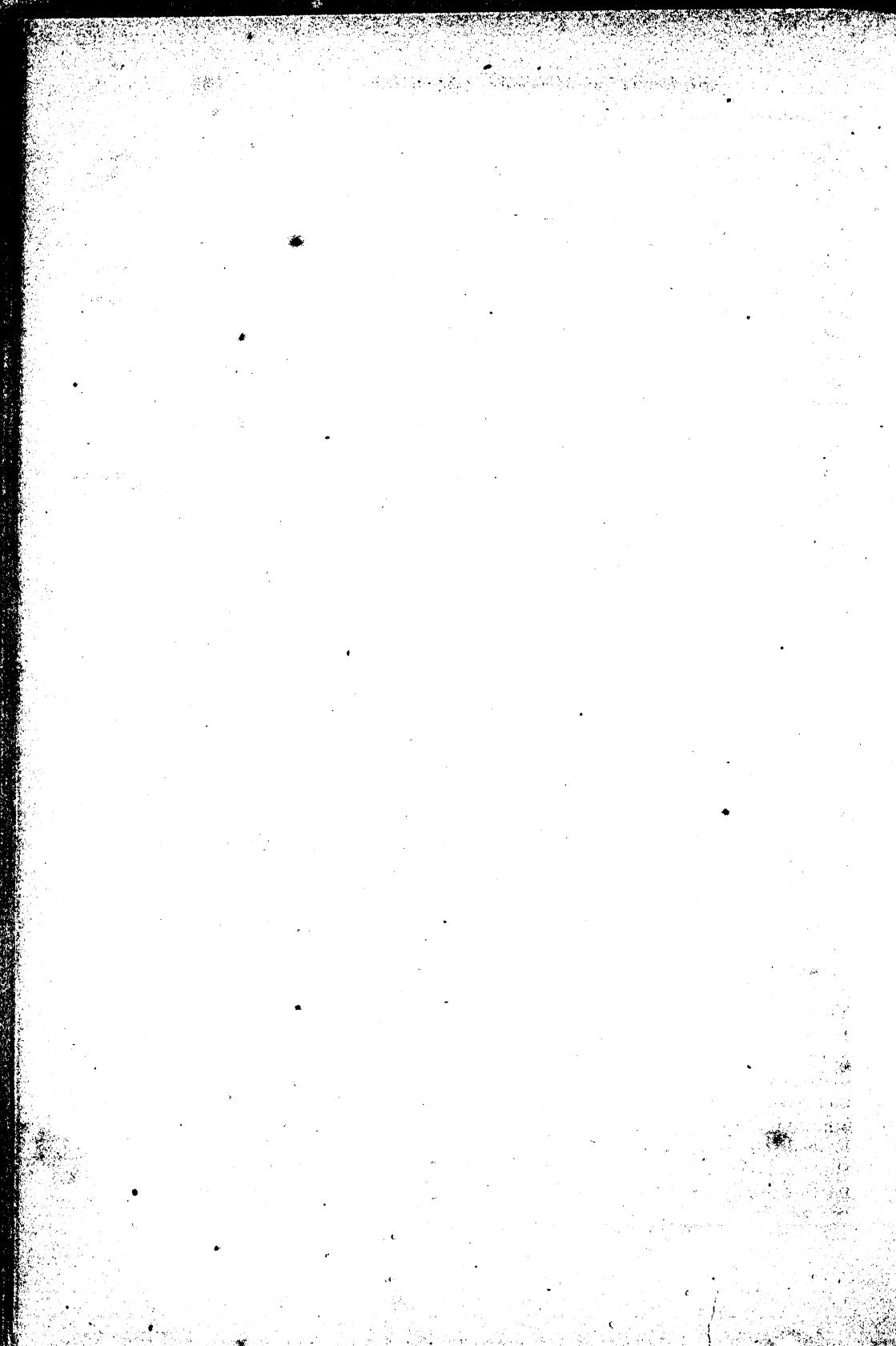
PART III. { DUMOH.
 { HOSHUNGABAD.
 { JUBBULPORE.
 { Nerbudda.

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A S : S O C : B



DUMOH.

This district is in the Jubbulpore division of the Central Provinces. It lies between 23° and $24^{\circ}50'$ north latitude and 79° and 80° east longitude. It is irregular in shape. Its extreme length is about 117 miles and its maximum breadth 62 miles. It contains an area of 2,412 square miles. It is bounded on the north by Punnah and Chutterpore; on the south by the districts of Nursingpore and Jubbulpore; on the west by Saugor and Punnah; and on the east by the Jubbulpore district and Punnah. Chutterpore and Punnah are protected States, controlled by the political Agent for Bundelcund.

The hills on the south, east, and north, belong to the Bhaner* range. They separate the Dumoh district in the extreme south from the valley of the Nerbudda. From the Saugor territory on the west the Vindhya range send three spurs. The first enters Dumoh about ten miles to the south east of Ramgurh; runs parallel to the Bearmee river; and crosses the Dumoh and Jokhye road. A second enters the district in the same neighbourhood, and pursuing a more northerly course, crosses the Saugor and Dumoh road near the village of Puthurea. A third off-shoot of the Vindhya range enters the district in the neighbourhood of Puncum Nuggur, and forms the northern boundary of the valley of the Sonar.

These hills are composed of the coarse sandstone of the Vindhyan series. They are not fossiliferous but bear very fine impressions of ferns. Some slabs now in the museum at Nagpore are worthy of remark on account of their delicate tracery.

Although the sandstone of the Dumoh district is more argillaceous than that found in Saugor, and easily fractures, yet some quarries contribute large substantial slabs suitable for roofing and other purposes.

Ironstone is found in the hills of the north-west, but is not smelted.

It is evident from the preceding remarks that the borders of the Dumoh district are hilly, and that one low range of hills runs right through the centre plain and separates the valley of the Sonar from that of the Bearmee. The eastern and southern portions comprise the most extensive jungle tracts and are consequently but thinly populated. They are occupied by the wild pergunnahs of Tejgurh, Mangurh and Koomharee. Near Puthurca we come upon the overlying trap of the Saugor district. The soil of the north-west portions of the Dumoh district is rich and produces excellent crops. The country to the east and south-east is poor. A description of the various kinds of soil will appear under the heading "settlement statistics." The water-sheds are formed by the Bhaner hills in the south and east, and by off-shoots from the Vindhya range in the north and west. Both these water-sheds have a north-easterly direction. The rivers in the Dumoh district are the Sonar,

DUMOH.

General description.

Physical features.

* Sometimes spelt *Bhandair*, and at other times *Bhandere*,

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the Bearmee, the Beas, the Kopra and Gorya. Descriptions of all these will be found under their several headings. The Sonar and Bearmee have a general north-east course through the Dumoh district, unite their streams at Kummurgurh and finally debouch into the river Cain of our maps, which in its turn empties itself into the Jumna.

The waters of all the streams in the Dumoh district ultimately find their way into the Jumna.

The Sonar river is the most important stream in the district. Its bed has much increased during the last 50 years. It is said to be still increasing. The principal affluent of the Bearmee is the Gorya. The chief affluents of the Sonar are the Bewas, commonly called Beas and the Kopra. The former is an affluent of the left bank, and the latter of the right bank. All the rivers are rapid and rocky, and are therefore useless for navigation. They abound in fish. In some places there are fine pools commonly called "doh." These pools or reaches, stretch for two or three, and sometimes even for five miles; with placid water sometimes, nearly to the brim, from bank to bank, adorned by overshadowing trees. Such a pool notably is that of the Sonar near Aslana. There is fine reach too a little below Hutta. That pool is natural, though the more ignorant of the populace think it to be artificial. There is a small pool at Meriado on a stream flowing into the Sonar.

Tanks.

There are not any remarkable tanks. The largest is the Phootara Tal at Dumoh. Near the town of Runnoh there are four or five tanks in close proximity to each other. All the tanks abound in water-fowl. Dumoh abounds in scrub jungle, but there few trees of any size. There are 269 Government waste tracts, containing 441,792 acres. All the waste lands have been demarcated. They lie chiefly in the south and north-east of the district. The majority of the productive forests have been leased. They are farmed on annual leases. The Deputy Commissioner considers that the present system of farming waste lands on annual leases is well adapted to the district. The authorized fixed duties levied on forest produce and the grazing dues do not press heavily on the people. The total forest income for the year 1864-65 amounted to about Rs. 8,292.

The forest produce is the same as that for the Nerbudda country generally. Its characteristics will be fully described in the article on the Jubbulpore district.

It may be useful to enter here once for all, the forest rules regarding reserved and unreserved tracts.

Forest rules.

In reserved forests the cutting or injuring of any timber, shrubs, bamboos, the appropriation of any forest produce, the lighting of fires, the making "dhyas," the burning of charcoal, are all strictly prohibited, except by the special permission of the Conservator of forests. In unreserved tracts, Teak (*Tectona grandis*), Sal (*Vatica robusta*), ~~Sal~~ (*Terminalia tomentosa*), Beejasal (*Pterocarpus marsupium*), Sheshum (*Dalbergia latifolia*), cannot be cut without the permission of the Deputy Commissioner or the Officers of the Forest department.

Duty on timber, on wood, and petty forest produce is collected under the forest rules. The right to collect the Government dues on petty jungle produce is usually farmed out annually.

DUMOH.

Agricultural Products.

Rubbee cultivation is more prevalent than khurreef, but both kinds of crops are cultivated. The productions are the same as those of the Jubbulpore district. The staple produce of the district is wheat. Wheat is grown chiefly in the western and central portions. Rice is produced in the eastern and southern portions. Cotton is not extensively grown. The following table exhibits the prices current in Dumoh in June 1864, and July 1865. The price list shows the number of seers per rupee. —

ARTICLES.	PER RUPEE.					
	1864.			1865.		
	M.	S.	C.	M.	S.	C.
Wheat	0	24	12	0	15	12
Gram (chenna)	0	29	12	0	19	4
Dall, toor	0	11	0	0	16	0
Dall, oord	0	13	0	0	16	0
Dall, meong	0	12	0	0	14	13
Dall, mussoor	0	19	0	0	18	4
Rice, 1st sort	0	11	0	0	7	12
Rice, 2nd sort	0	13	0	0	8	4
Rice 3rd sort	0	14	8	0	9	0
Jaggery, (goor)	0	6	3	0	7	2
Sugar, 1st sort	0	3	1	0	3	4
Sugar 2nd sort	0	3	10	0	3	10
Salt, common	0	4	14	0	5	6
Ghee	0	1	15	0	2	4
Bhoosa	4	20	0	1	20	0
Grass (bundles.) ..	800			600		
Oil, linseed	0	3	0	0	4	0
Cotton	0	2	8	0	1	0

Prices in 1864 were slightly higher in Dumoh than in Jubbulpore. In 1865 they were slightly lower.

Uddhaputtees and Khadees made of coarse red cloth are woven by Koorees and Koshtas. There is also a superior kind of cotton cloth locally called "kusbee," which is woven with coloured and variegated

Manufactures.

DUMOH.

borders. It is highly thought of among the women of this part of the country. The cloths are exported to Bundelkund and other districts. There is also a small local manufacture of the usual brass utensils commonly used by natives.

Perhaps the most important manufacture is that of paper. It is made at Puncum Nuggur. There are three sorts of paper made, and about 160 guddees are turned out monthly. Each guddee contains ten quires. This would give 80 reams a month. The average price per ream is Rs. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$, so that the total manufacture per month may be estimated at Rs. 840, or Rs. 10,080 a year. There are about 40 families engaged. The earnings per family would be 21 rupees; three-fourths of which may be set down as profit. The paper is exported to the adjoining districts, and finds its way to Raepore and to Nagpore.

There are no other manufactures of note.

Animals.

The animals are the same for the most part as those found in the Jubbulpore district. Game of all kinds is very abundant. It may perhaps be well to notice an excellent breed of bullocks in the Dumoh district. The stock appears originally to have been imported from the grazing districts of the Cane river in Bundelkund. They are small, but well bred. Tejgurh is particularly remarkable for this breed of cattle. Although the bullocks are excellent, yet the cows are not noted for giving much milk. Wolves are common both in Dumoh and the northern parts of the Jubbulpore district, particularly Belhari. Contrary to the generally received opinion, these wolves do attack human beings and destroy human life. Thus in 1864-65, 9 persons were killed by wolves in the Dumoh district.

Climate.

The climate of the country is hotter than that of Jubbulpore. Water is not found so near the surface. In some localities it exists only at great depths; the sandstone rock of which this district is composed being of an exceedingly porous character. It is less damp in the rains than the Saugor district, as might be expected from the geological formation of the latter, which is trap over sandstone. Hail storms prevail here as at Jubbulpore, and here too they injure the rubbee crops. On the whole, Dumoh may be considered to be more healthy than Saugor, but less so than some parts of Jubbulpore.

The hot and cold seasons are certainly milder, while the summer nights are cooler than in the Gangetic plain.

Intermittent fevers and guinea-worm are common. Amongst epidemics we may notice small-pox and cholera. Small-pox is especially destructive; and a great number of persons seem to have lost the sight of one, and in some cases both eyes from this complaint.

Population.

The population of the district is 262,641, which gives an average of 107 to the square mile. Lodhees and Koormees form the mass of the population, but there are also Boondelas, Brahmins, Rajpoots, Byes, Koorees, Koshtahs, Aheers, Gonds, Chumars, Telees, Dangees, Dheemurs. The Mahomedans are not numerous. They reside chiefly in the towns of Dumoh, Hutta and Nursingurh. They are mostly in indigent

circumstances. There is no Mahomedan of rank in the district. At Hutta they generally pursue the callings of "dyers," "bricklayers" "carders," and the like. At Dumoh they enter service; very few employ themselves in agriculture.

DUMOH.

The Lodhees are said to have originally come from Demurdha, in in the Benares district. They have settled in the Dumoh district for about 280 years (*vide* article "Lodhee" in the Jubbulpore district.) They first settled at Buttyagurh. They are now most numerous in the per-gunnahs of Nursingurh, Battyagurh, Ubhana and Hindorea. They are divided into several tribes, are apt to fight, readily take military service, but are chiefly agriculturists.

Lodhees.

The Boondelas are a very turbulent race. A great many are found at Hindorea, whose Chief was a Boondela. They are said to have migrated from the country beyond the Dussan river from Calpee, &c. They settled in the Dumoh district about 240 years ago. They are most numerous in the pergunnahs of Hutta, Dumoh, Puthuria and Harut, and are sub-divided into tribes according to the villages from which they migrated. Their sole occupation is agriculture, in which they are skilful. They are industrious and thrifty. They possess little of the rude obstinacy of the Lodhees, but are more cunning and less liable to be over-reached. They are better acquainted with accounts.

Boondelas.

The Brahmins in this district are Mishurs, Putureeas, Doobseys, Tewarees, and Sunoreas. There are also several Mahratta Brahmins.

Brahmins.

The majority of the inhabitants of several considerable villages around Hutta is formed entirely of Mishurs. They originally came from Roopnoor, near Kanouj in the Doab, and are said to have settled in Buttyagurh and Hindorea about $3\frac{1}{2}$ centuries ago. They subsequently removed from thence and founded the villages of Kopra, Deolya and Kootree on the Sonar. They then occupied Pandaheer, Neemurmoonda and other places. They readily employ themselves in agriculture. They also become peons, soldiers, and police.

Mishurs.

The Putureea Brahmins came originally from Soojeera, in the Doab, from whence they were driven by famine. They settled in Dumoh about 1615 Sumbut. They are most numerous at Dumoh, Runneh and Gysabad.

Putureea.

The Doobseys are found all over the district. Many live at Hutta. They too are said to have migrated from the Doab and from the neighbourhood of Oorcha.

Doobseys.

The Tewarees came from Oorcha itself, about 180 years ago. They are found principally at Runneh, Hutta, Nursingurh and Buckhera.

Tewaree.

The Sunorea Brahmins are from Bindrabun, near Muttra. They have resided in Dumoh for 400 years and upwards. They live chiefly at Nuggur, Runneh and Hutta.

Sunoreas.

DUMOH.**Mahratta
Brahmins.**

The Mahratta Brahmins came into this district in 1803. There are not more than 100 families of these Brahmins. They never existed in great numbers in the Dumoh district. Three-fourths of these Brahmins live at Dumoh, Hutta and Puthurea.

Koshtees.

The Koshtees weave finer cloths than the Koorees. Whilst the latter are found everywhere, the former chiefly live in the larger towns and villages.

Aheers.

Aheers are most numerous at Tejgurh, and in the pergunnah of Kotah.

Gonds.

The Gonds are scattered over the hilly tracts of Tejgurh, Mangurh, and Murriadoh.

Language.

The vernacular of the district is Hindee.

**Tehseel
Sub-divisions.**

For fiscal purposes there are two Tehseels, namely Hutta and Dumoh.

The Hutta Tehseel contains the local sub-divisions of Hutta, Buttyagurh, Pitehra, Koombaree, and Futtchpore. The area amounts to 1,002 square miles.

The Dumoh Tehseel, in which is situated the head-quarters of the district, comprises the sub-divisions of Dumoh, Nursingurh, Mangurh, Tejgurh, Puthurea, or in all 1,410 square miles.

Revenue.

The revenue of the district for 1864-65 amounted to Rs. 2,94,538, of

Land revenue Rs. 2,50,812

Abkaree .. 7,086

Stamp duties .. 17,062

Forests .. 8,293

Educational Cess .. 5,016

Road Cess .. 5,016

Dak Cess .. 1,254

of which the land tax was Rs. 2,50,812. The

Octroi collected at Dumoh and Hutta, in very

nearly equal proportions, amounted to Rs. 4,138.

Total.. 2,94,538

Trade.

The import trade on the north-east frontier is considerable. It consists of Europe and country-made piece goods, betel, cocoanuts, hardware, tobacco, spices, rum, salt, sugar from Mirzapore and the north-west. The imports in transit through the district may be valued at 13 lakhs of rupees. A great proportion is sent to Saugor and Bhopal, and merely passes through Dumoh.

Salt is brought by the Bunjaras in large quantities from the Rajpootana salt lakes via Saugor. It supplies the markets of Bundelkund. The value of the salt that is annually carried through the Dumoh district has been estimated at 3 lakhs of rupees. The exports consist of wheat, gram, rice, hides, ghee, cotton and coarse cloths.

From the table on the opposite page it will be seen that the waste, saleable under the waste land rules, is very considerable. The unreserved waste tracts amount to 441,792 acres.

HOMON.
Settlement Statement

NAME OF TALUKH.	VILLAGE AREA,	LANDS HOW OCCUPIED.		POPULATION.	Number of ploughs.
		Cultivation.	Malgozaaree Area.		
Dumoh ..	902 683 1 084	207 716 208 880	44 901 214 826	468 527 434 156	42 245 88 695 77 860 39 377 61 176 66 886 434 17 511
Hutta ..	641 788	759 176 181	176 940 110 730	82 713 370 413	271 375 32 756 76 339 67 845 30 634 44 591 59 808 401 15 275
Total ..	1 250 1 544 471 1 843	383 897	383 740 155 631	297 569 838 940	765 531 75 001 165 034 145 705 70 011 105 767 126 664 835 32 786

DUMOH.

Since the annexation of Dumoh there have been six Settlements.

1st, quinquennial settlement from 1819 to 1823.

2nd do. do. from 1824 to 1828.

3rd do. do. from 1829 to 1833.

One year's summary settlement in 1834; 20 years' settlement, from 1835-36 to 1854-55.

The latter settlement remained in force, but there were very considerable remissions and reductions, until 1864-65 when a new settlement for 30 years was completed and the Government demand fixed at Rs. 2,54,974. By the Khusrahs measurement the district, as before mentioned, comprises an area of 2,412 square miles. The professional survey was completed in 1866, but the maps are not yet published. The area will probably exceed that given.

In the southern and eastern portions of the district Talooqdarce tenures prevail; while in the rest of the district Zemindaree tenures are more common. These are being converted into Putteedaree (imperfect generally). The Bhyacharah tenure, or a village held by a brotherhood exists, but does not prevail.

Rents.

All rents are fixed in money, at so much per manee, which is about 4 acres of land. The payment of rents in kind obtains in the wooded tracts. At the settlement the following were found to be the average rent rates:—

Kabur from 1 rupee 8 annas to 2 rupees per acre.

Moond 1 " 4 " to 1 " 12 annas.

Rultyan and Ryan 1 rupee to 1 " 4 "

Puthurooa Bhuttooa 8 annas to 1 "

In the less inhabited parts these rates fall considerably.

Soil.

The soil is generally of uniform and moderate fertility. It differs much from the black earth of the decaying trap of the Saugor district. The colour is lighter, and in the neighbourhood of Dumoh it has the appearance of the light coloured lands of the Doab. At other places, as Joojhar, it has a red tinge, and breaks when dry into very fine dust. This soil when inclosed with bunds is well adapted for the production of rice. Almost the whole of the district is capable of growing rubbee, as has already been mentioned. The different kinds of soil generally known and distinguished by natives are Kabur, Moond, Rultyan, Ryan, Puturooa, Kheera and Bhuttooa.

Kabur.

There are two kinds of Kabur, one black and the other brown, with a yellow tinge. This soil produces wheat, gram, musoor (pulse), and ulsee (linseed). When irrigated it makes excellent garden ground, fit for growing both vegetables and sugarcane.

Moond.

This soil is inferior only to Kabur. It is of a dusky brown colour, and is sometimes mixed with kunkur. That in which there is no gravel is the richer of the two kinds. It produces wheat, gram, musoor and ulsee. In most places peas and teora may be obtained.

Rultyan is of a lightish brown colour, mixed with yellow and black. It forms into clods when ploughed, but does not retain moisture. Both rubbee and khureef crops are obtainable herefrom.

DUMOH,
Rultyan.

Ryan is a dark coloured soil. It exists near hills and is of no great depth. The produce is cotton, tillee, mustard seed, oord (pulse), and sometimes gram may be grown, but only when the rain-fall is good.

Ryan.

Puturooa is of no particular class of earth, but is so called from being found in the neighbourhood of nullahs. The word is derived from "patna," to be watered. The parts liable to inundation in the rains are reserved for rubbee crops, and khureef is grown in places not liable to be overflowed. This soil produces excellent crops of both kinds. It requires no manure and preserves its fertility for an indefinite time.

Puturooa.

Kheera is very productive and never requires a fallow. It is the manured land near villages. It produces tobacco and good crops of all descriptions.

Kheera.

Bhutooa is the worst kind of soil. It is of a reddish colour and is mixed with gravel and stones. The depth of soil is generally very small, and is exhausted in three years, and then requires a fallow of four years. In some places it cannot be cultivated at all unless the rain-fall is abundant.

Bhutooa.

From Kas grass-rope may be made. The word is sometimes misspelt Khas, in Hindoo it is Kash. It is a great enemy to the cultivator. Its botanical name is *saccharum spontaneum*. It is common in the best as well as the worst soil of the Dumoh district. Whenever the ground is in any degree exhausted or left fallow kas grass springs up. It sends down its fibres to a great depth and forms a complete reticulation of roots over the whole ground covered by it. It is thus most difficult to eradicate. It both exhausts and heats the soil, and the cultivator unless he subdue it, must abandon his field. After 12 or 15 years, and not before, the weed disappears spontaneously. It is commonly affirmed that if bunds are erected round a field containing this grass, and water allowed to remain on the field, that the roots rot and the land may be cultivated in five or six years. It is thought that deep ploughing might extirpate the weed.

Kas grass.

Fairs are held twice a year at Bhandukpoor and once at Kundulpore. There is also a small unimportant fair at Gysabad. The trade at these fairs may be estimated to amount to about a lakh of rupees per annum.

Fairs.

The principal roads that pass through this district are the following:

1. The main road from Jubbulpore to Saugor.
2. The road from Saugor to Mirzapoore *via* Jokehi, generally spelt Jokai.

Routes.

3. The road from Saugor to Nagode.
4. The road from Jubbulpore to Banda and Nowgong.
5. The direct road from Saugor to Jubbulpore *via* Tejgurh.

The main road from Jubbulpore to Saugor enters the district between Jabeera and Nowtah, where it crosses the Bhanere range of hills which

DUMOH.

forms the boundary. This road is partially bridged and metalled. The rivers crossed in the Dumoh district are the Biarmi, Khopra and Sonar.

The second of the roads enumerated above quits the main Saugor and Jubbulpore road at Dumoh.

The road from Saugor to Nagode is the same as the first route as far as the station of Dumoh. It then branches off to Hutta via Bungaon. The first encamping ground is at Bungaon which is 12 miles from Dumoh. The road is fair, as it is all the way to Hutta, which is 12 miles distant from Bungaon and 24 from Dumoh. At Lohari, which is 18 miles from Dumoh and 6 from Bungaon, the road to Nowgong via Chutterpoor branches off. The next encamping ground is at Hinota, where water is plentiful but supplies scarce. From Hinota to Gysabad the road is tolerable, and at Gysabad the encamping ground is on the banks of the Biarmi. The Biarmi here forms the boundary of the Dumoh district. Besides the routes above mentioned there is a route to Sumbulpore from Saugor which passes through the villages of Jujhar and Mahla after leaving Dumoh.

Education.

When Dumoh was administered by the North-West Provinces' Government efforts were made to afford education to the people. With this view a schoolhouse was built at the town of Dumoh, and educational officers were appointed, whose duties it was to organise the existing indigenous schools and to induce the schoolmasters to administer a sound education. So soon as Dumoh formed a part of the Central Provinces this system was considerably altered, and Government schools were established in the principal villages of the district, whilst the former schools of Huttah and Dumoh were maintained. These schools are intended for the education of the middle and non-agricultural classes, whereas village schools are chiefly for the lower class of agriculturists. But the chief feature of the altered educational system was not the establishment of village schools and the levy of an educational cess, but the transference of the management of these schools from the educational officers to the district authorities. The latter are now required to lend all the weight of their influence to aid the progress of education. The Deputy Commissioners build schoolhouses, collect scholars, and interest the people in their progress; and the educational officers inspect schools, provide books and masters, and insure a gradual and steady advancement. There are now in the Dumoh district 68 schools and 2,383 scholars. Of these, 40 are Government institutions and the rest are indigenous.

Past history.

This district was originally attached to the administration of the Rajpoot dynasty of Mahoba in Bundelkund. The last of the line was subdued by Prithiraj, King of Delhi, A. D. 1083. It may have formed part of the dominion of this dynasty for about 500 years, but the duration merely approximates to the truth, and is contingent upon the commencement of the Rajpoot dynasty of Mahoba. In A. D. 1196 Kutuboodeen Eibuk overran Bundelkund, and it is probable that the

DUMOH.

Mahomedan occupation of the Dumoh district commenced at the close of the 12th or beginning of the 13th century. This supposition is confirmed by inscriptions and sculptures still extant. We say Mahomedan occupation, for their rule seems never to have been established in the intimate way that our rule is established. They apparently contented themselves with exacting either tribute or a nominal allegiance. Thus after the destruction of the Mahoba dynasty, the Puruhas of Oorcha in Bundelkund are said to have ruled for 125 years. To them, it is traditionally asserted, succeeded Soorat Shah Gond, who ruled over a tract of country called Kuttola. Kuttola comprehended the present territories of Bijawur, Chutterpore, Buxwaha and Shahgurh. A portion of the inhabitants of the Dumoh district called "Kungars" appear to have revolted from this Gond dynasty and to have maintained their independence until A. D. 1503; when they were subdued by Rajah Bursingdeo Hoondela of Oorcha. This man entirely rebuilt Dhamoni and made it the capital of a large tract of country containing 2,558 villages, and including Dumoh, Buttyagurh, Nursingurh, and a great portion of Saugor.

Rajah Bursingdeo was a notorious freebooter, and was called "dang," or robber. Bundelkund is sometimes called Dungaya. He it was who at the instigation of Selim, killed Abulfazul, Akbar's celebrated minister. The Boondelas were for a long time Mahomedan feudatories, and this it is very necessary to bear in mind when considering the history of Dumoh. Whatever may have been the local Government from the extinction of the Mahoba or Chundailee dynasty, that Government was always nominally or really subject to the Emperors of Delhi. Thus though the Mahomedan rule may be said to have existed 5 centuries, reckoning from the time of Kootabodeen Eibuk, to that of Chutter Sal, the Boondela Chief of Punnah, yet such rule is quite consistent with the co-existence of various petty sovereignties. Jajhar Sing, the son and successor of Bursingdeo, revolted against the Mahomedans, was defeated and compelled to fly to Gondwana. His brother Pehar Sing was made Rajah. In his time, or shortly afterwards, the Mahomedans attacked Hutta about the year A. D. 1610. Before that period, about the same time as the creation of the Dhamoni kingdom, Hutta was ruled by a Gond named Jahan Sing. The fort now in existence had not been built, and the Gond resided near the north gate of the present town. To him succeeded Hunmunchal Sing in A. D. 1569, and it was at the close of his reign in 1610 A. D. that the Mahomedans first acquired Hutta. The son of Hunmunchal Sing was killed by a Boondela Chief, and from that time a considerable portion of the Dumoh district was governed from Punnah.

The son of the successful subverter of the Gond dynasty was Dewan Tukkut Sing. He succeeded about A. D. 1664. About this time the fort of Hutta was built; it was subsequently much improved by the Marhattas.

Tukkut Sing was on his death succeeded by his son Dewan Suroop Sing, in A. D. 1701. This man died in A. D. 1717, and was succeeded

Sumbut 1667.**About A. D.
1541 or Sum-
but 1600.****Sumbut 1628.****A. D. 1647
Sumbut 1706.****Sumbut 1723.****Sumbut 1760.
Sumbut 1769.**

DUMOH.**Sambut 1803.**

by his son Dewan Narainjoo. Early in the 18th century Rajah Chutter Sal of Punnah threw off the Mahomedan yoke; but being hard pressed by the Chief of Furakabad he called in the aid of the Peishwa. From that time the Marhattas gradually acquired possession of the Dumoh and Saugor territories; indeed Rajah Chutter Sal ceded a large portion to them. The last Chief of Huttah was killed in action in A. D. 1744 by Kashee Pundit, the cousin of Govind Rao Pundit, the representative of the Peishwa at Saugor.

We have confined our attention to the history of the country lying to the north of Ubhana, and west of the Bearni. The southern portions appear to have been governed from Rehli. The first rulers were Gonds; to them succeeded a race of shepherds known by the name of "Bhuladeos," and finally Chutter Sal, the Boondela Chief of Punnah. The whole of the Rehli district, including a portion of the territory now in the Dumoh district, was ceded by Chutter Sal to the Peishwa.

The chief Mahomedan posts were Nursingurh, Buttyagurh, and Dumoh.

Forts were built by the Mahomedans at all these places. The fort at Dumoh has been destroyed, but those of Buttyagurh and Nursingurh still exist. They are in a ruinous state; their description will be found under their respective headings. The Marhattas established revenue officers in many of the principal villages, particularly in Puthuria, Huttah, Dumoh, Nursingurh, Buttyagurh, Tejgurh and Harut. This district was ceded to the British Government with the rest of the Saugor and Nerbudda Territories by the Peishwa in 1818, and was taken over from his representative at Saugor.

As might have been anticipated from the foregoing narrative, Huttah was the first head-quarters of the new district. It continued to be the head-quarters until the new road between Jubbulpore and Saugor was opened in 1835. The head-quarters was then removed to Dumoh, and the size of the district was enlarged by the addition of certain pergunnahs taken from the Rehli district, for Rehli was formerly a district, and not a mere Tehseel. We have already pointed out how that Gonds and others residing at Rehli dominated over the southern part of Dumoh. The Dumoh district, as a portion of the Saugor and Nerbudda Territories, remained attached to the North-West Provinces until the time they formed part of the Central Provinces. Dumoh at first was a part of the Saugor Division. Subsequently owing to the acquisition of Nimar, and for other reasons, it was deemed advisable to remove the head-quarters of the Division from Saugor, and from that time Dumoh was attached to the Jubbulpore Division. Though subject fiscally and for all administrative purposes to Jubbulpore, yet from its proximity to Saugor certain departments existing there still take cognizance of matters connected with their several offices at Dumoh. Thus the chaplain of Saugor is required to perform certain ecclesiastical duties at Dumoh, and the public works are carried on by the Executive Engineer at Saugor.

There are not many ancient remains of note. Small ruins of religious buildings exist in various places, but they are remarkable only for their elaborate carving, and for the hardness and fineness of the sandstone from which they are cut. We have already mentioned that the sandstone of the Dumoh district is argillaceous and coarse grained; slabs for these buildings,—and many of the slabs are of considerable size,—were brought from a distance, probably from the Saugor district. Some of these ruins are now merely heaps of prostrate stones, with a few still erect. These last are called "Murhees," from "Murhee," a temple.

DUMOH.
Antiquities.

Such remains exist at Dumoh, Runneh, Koondulpore and Nowtah.

The temple of Mahadeo at Bandukpore, in the pergunnah of Dumoh, is said to be ancient; it has been restored, and added to, since the cession. Another at the confluence of the Kopra and Sonar rivers is of great age and in good preservation. It is said to have been built by a woman of the Kullar tribe, called Seeta; who also is said to have founded the neighbouring village of Nuggur, still called Seeta Nuggur.

The principal Jain temple at Koondulpore, containing a large sitting image, is said to be of old date; at least the original buildings in the centre must be old; for the buildings annexed to it, together with the stairs up the hill, are stated to be modern additions made by the Bunneas at different times. The main building is said to be built of cut stone, without cement; and the square pillars are evidently single stones, but the natives have had the bad taste to plaster and whitewash them.

This temple is remarkable for having escaped entirely from the followers of Ameer Khan, and from the Pindarees, the mutilations by whom are visible almost everywhere else.

The only remains of old forts, are the site of a Mahomedan fort in the middle of the present town of Dumoh, and an unfinished one at Nursingurh; and the fort of Butyagurh is said to be ancient. The fort of Dumoh has been demolished, and most of the materials of which it was built applied to other uses, too long ago for any information to be procured even regarding the time of its destruction. From some stones, however, which have been dug out of its foundation there seems every reason to believe that it was itself built in part with the stones of some still more ancient Hindoo temple, the site of which is now unknown, but supposed to have been near the Pooteera Tal.

These stones are large, many of them richly carved, and all of a kind procured in a quarry in the hills at a considerable distance from Dumoh. It is perhaps no unreasonable conjecture that the Mahomedans on their arrival demolished with their usual intolerance the temples of the Hindoos, and applied the best of the materials to the construction of a new fort, partly for the goodness and convenience of the stone and partly as a studied degradation,—a practice not unusual in those times.

In the town of Dumoh remains of the same kind frequently meet the eye, built into walls—as seats before doors, placed at the edge of wells, and lying neglected. All were probably derived immediately from the above fort, but are obviously of Hindoo origin.

DUMOH.

The fort at Nursingurh was planned, and nearly completed by an officer of the Emperor Akbar, named Tybshah; the precise date is not known. This officer becoming suspected, a force was sent against him, and he was defeated and slain. He is now held in much veneration as a saint. The fort is on the west side of the town, at a spot where the bank of the river is high, and perpendicular, excepting at one ravine which at all times secured a sheltered access to the water. The fortification was of good size, being three sides of a square, embracing this ravine; about the mouth of which were some slight works, forming the only exception to the fort being entirely open on the river face. It was, however, never finished, and though superior in every respect to the Gurhee on the east of the town, subsequently built by the Marhattas, they never occupied it, owing to some superstitious notions.

Aslana.

Aslana is a large village pleasantly situated on the right bank of the Sonar. It is about 13 miles to the north-west of Dumoh. The river at Aslana forms a natural "deh," or pool. This deh is always filled with water, and the banks are covered with overshadowing trees. The deh extends for some three miles, and the scenery, whether from the banks or from the river, is exceeded by nothing in the Dumoh district. The town contains 395 houses; and the population has been variously estimated at 1,277 and 1,770. The majority of the inhabitants are Brahmans. They are said to be descendants of the former "Chowdrees" of Dumoh. The office of Chowree under the Marhatta Government was a post of some wealth. There is a Government school here. The schoolhouse was erected at the cost of the Lumberdar. The village is partially walled. The river is never fordable, there is a good Ferry. The road from Saugor to Huttah passes through Aslana. Besides the Brahmans there are some industrious families of "Cheepas," or cloth printers. They print native cloths, "razaees," "gaddedes" &c. The printed cloths have a sale both in the district of Dumoh and in Bundelkund and Jubbulpore.

The usual rubbee crops are grown in the neighbourhood. Lat. 23° 57'; long. 79° 22'.

Balakote.

The derivation of the name Balokote is obvious. The "kote" is built of stone, and is now in ruins. The village is fortified and is situated in a very hilly part of the district about 12 miles to the south-west of Dumoh. There are 250 houses in the village. The populace are Lodhees; they rebelled in 1857. The fort was attacked by some British troops and dismantled; the people are still of bad repute. The nullah near which the village is situated is called "Sutdharoo."

Khureef crops are chiefly grown here. The soil is stony. There is a police outpost.

Bandukpore.

Bandukpore contains 200 houses, and upwards of 600 inhabitants. It is about nine or ten miles to the east of Dumoh. There is a fair held here twice a year, once during February for the "Bussurut," Hindoo festival, and once in March for the "Sheoratree." Large numbers of pilgrims attend these fairs, and the traffic is considerable. According to the trade returns of 1864-65, this fair was attended by 20,000 persons and goods to the amount of Rs. 35,650 were sold. The chief articles

brought to the fair are piece-goods, hardware, and trinkets of various kinds. There are two temples at the village, one is sacred to Mahadeo and the other to Parbuttee. The annual collections at these temples are said to amount to about four or five thousand rupees. Other accounts estimate the offerings at the shrine of Jageshwur Mahadeo alone at 12,000 rupees per annum. The proceeds of the latter temple belong to the heirs of the former Marhatta "Amil." The temple sacred to Mahadeo is said to be ancient, but there have been many modern additions.

DUMOH.

This is a thriving and rather large village. It contains 541 houses, and a population of 1,771 souls. The prevailing caste is the "Dangee." It is situated about 15 miles to the west of Dumoh and 3 miles to the south of Puthuria. The village is held in Jageer by a Marhatta family of Poona. The ancestor to whom this village and four others were granted by the Boondela Rajah Chutter Sal held a cavalry command under the Peishwa. The village was granted on condition of military service. There is an indigenous school that is fairly attended, and a police station. The usual rubbee crops are grown, and there are some fields of sugarcane. *Khulee* and other coarse cloths are made here.

Bhansa.

This river rises in Bhopal and has a course of about 80 or 90 miles. It is an affluent on the right bank of the Sonar. Very little of its course is within the Dumoh district. It enters the district at Panchamnuggur, and joins the Sonar river near Chukuree ghat. The junction of the rivers is at a little distance above the village of Hingwanee and about 3 miles from Nursingurh. There is a fine iron suspension bridge over this river where it is crossed by the Saugor and Dumoh road. The bridge is made of iron obtained from Tendukhera, about 50 miles to the south. It is of 200 feet span and was erected by native workmen, at a cost of 48,000 rupees. A donation of 5,000 rupees was also given to Major Presgrave, Assay Master of the Saugor Mint, under whose supervision the bridge was made. It was constructed in 1830.

Beas.

Berkberee is a small village on the right bank of the Sonar. It is on the high road to Saugor from Dumoh. The encamping ground on the banks of the river is good.

Berkheres.

This is a small village ten miles and a half from Dumoh, on the Jokehi road. Between this and Dumoh are no less than 16 nullahs, 15 of which are bridged; water can be obtained from a tank, and from a well stream. The encamping ground is tolerably good.

Betturra.

Bungaon is a village in the Hutta Tehseel. It is about 12 miles north* of Dumoh, and on the road between the latter place and Hutta, from which place it is distant about 12 miles. There is an encamping ground for troops passing from Saugor to Nowgong. It is also on the Jubbulpore and Banda route.

Bungaon.

* Bengal route book.

DUMOH.**Burdha.**

Burdha is a large village, almost in the extreme north-east corner of the Dumoh district. It is 21 miles north-west of Huttah and 45 from Dumoh. The population is estimated at upwards of 1,000; the houses number 482; there is a police outpost at this village.

It is worth mentioning because of its area,—the area being 17,531 acres, no other village in the Dumoh district possesses so large an area.

Buttyagurh.

Buttyagurh is an old town and fort, formerly the residence of a Marhatta "Amil," and the head-quarters of a considerable tract. It gives its name to the pergunnah in which it is situated. There are now 336 houses and 978 people in the place. It is situated on the right bank of the Byak, 20 miles north-west of Dumoh. This stream, an affluent of the Sonar, is dry in the hot weather. The soil of the pergunnah is amongst the most fertile in the district.

There is here a police station, a cattle pound, and a district post office. The principal castes are Lodhees and Koormees.

Dumoh.

Dumoh is the head-quarters of the district of the same name. Here reside the Deputy Commissioner, an Assistant Commissioner, the Civil Surgeon, and the District Superintendent of police. There are no troops. There is a Jail, a Dispensary, a Dak bungalow and Serai. There is a large tank of considerable antiquity and a schoolhouse in its neighbourhood. The school contains upwards of 100 boys; in a branch of this school English is taught. The town contains 1,908 houses, and a population of 8,563 souls.

Near the town are some bluff hills which radiate the heat in the hot weather, and tend to increase the temperature. In spite of the fine tank called the Pooteera Tal, there is a difficulty in obtaining good water. The sandstone on which Dumoh is built is of so porous a character that it does not easily retain water, and there are but few wells.

Most of the old Hindu temples at Dumoh were destroyed by the Mahomedans, and their materials used to construct a fort, which in its turn has been destroyed.

The principal inhabitants of Dumoh are Lodhees, Koormees and Brahmins. There are also some Mahomedans.

Dumoh is situated on the highroad between Saugor and Jubbulpore and between Saugor and Allahabad via Jokehi. Dumoh is 45 miles east of Saugor, 65 north-west of Jubbulpore, and 775 miles via Allahabad. Latitude $23^{\circ} 50'$ north; long. $79^{\circ} 30'$ east.

Futtehpoor:

Futtehpoor is a town in the Huttah Tehseel. It contains 502 houses and upwards of 2,000 inhabitants. When this part of the country belonged to the Rajah of Shahgurh, this place was the head-quarters of an officer corresponding to our Tehseeldar. The market place was destroyed by fire in the year 1857-58 during the rebellion. There is

still a weekly market, it is about 25 miles due north of Dumoh and 8 west by north of Huttah. There is a Government school, and an old Thannah belonging to Government.

The Goreia, an affluent of the Bearmi, and boundary between Jubbulpore and Dumoh, *vide* article "Goreia" Jubbulpore district.

Gysabad is a village on the road from Huttah to Nagode. It is on the left bank of the Bearmi; contains 237 houses and a population of 874; many of the inhabitants are Brahmins. It was an important place under the Boondelas. There is still an annual fair. There is a police outpost, and also a station for the collection of statistics of the exports and imports of the frontier. Gysabad possess is a Government school. The water from the wells is said to be brackish. It is 16 miles from Huttah.

Harut was a place of some importance under the Boondelas. There are now only 100 houses, and a population of 315. Here are some Mahomedan tombs, and a pretty water-fall of the Sonar river, on the left bank of which it is situated. It is 3 miles south-west of Huttah, and about 20 north of Dumoh.

This town is the third in importance in the Dumoh district. It is held in oobaree (or quit rent tenure) by Oomrao Sing, of Boondela descent. He is still a youth, and is under the care of a guardian. His brother Keshore Sing was outlawed. During the mutiny of 1857 the inhabitants of this village rose in rebellion. They were headed by Zorahur Sing. This man burnt all the records and public offices in Dumoh. The place was reduced by a small body of troops from Saugor, and the fort, then in a good state of preservation, was demolished. The town contains 1,135 houses, and a population of 3,600. The prevailing caste is Lodhee. The inhabitants still maintain the evil reputation acquired in 1857.

A very fine description of betel leaf, called "desoo bungala" is here cultivated; and wooden toys are made by "Mochees." A weekly market is held on Tuesdays. There is a police station here and a Government school. The place is 9 miles north-east of Dumoh.

Hinota is a large village containing a market-place. It is 30 miles north-east of Dumoh, and 10 miles from Huttah, on the highroad to Nagode. It contains 389 houses, and a population of 1,154. The trade is considerable; grain is exported to Bundelkund. The inhabitants are Rajpoots. There is a Government school, and an encamping ground for troops.

Huttah is the head-quarters of a Tehseel. A police Inspector is also stationed here. There is an old fort which was built in the 17th century by one of the Boondela Chiefs who then ruled over this part of the country. This fort was enlarged and improved by the Marhattas. It is now in ruins. Of the old Gond fort near the north gate, very little, if any remains. The place was occupied by the Mahomedans about 1610 A. D. It has always been of considerable importance, and when we acquired the place in 1818 was the head-quarters of the district. The head-quarters was removed in 1835-36. There are good Tehseelee

DUMOH.

Goreia.

Gysabad.

Harut.

Hindoreea.

Hinota.

Huttah.

DUMOH.

buildings, a Police station, a Dispensary, Serai, and a large Government school. There is a market twice a week. The direct road to Nagode passes through this town. It is on the right bank of the Sonar. The encamping ground is south of the fort. Red cloth is manufactured here, and exported to Bundelkund and other places.

There are 2,346 houses, and a population of 7,106. It is 24 miles north of Dumoh, 170 miles south-west of Allahabad, and 61 north-east of Saugor. Its elevation above the sea is 1,183 feet. Lat. $24^{\circ} 8'$ north; long. $79^{\circ} 40'$ east.

Huttree.

Huttree is the residence of the Rajah, who is by caste a Lodhee. The name of the present Rajah is Harbuns Rae, and he holds the talooqa (tract) in jageer. He is descended from Rajah Tejee Sing, who founded Tejgurh. Huttree contains 177 houses, and the population is estimated at 714. The village is on the left bank of the Bearmi; and is 12 miles north-east of Dumoh. There is a school in the village.

Jujhar.

Jujhar, or Joojhar, is an ancient village situated on the Saugor and Sumbulpore route. It gave its name to the former pergunnah. It is on the left bank of the Bearmi. The population is estimated at 458; and the number of houses is 106. It is about 12 miles east of Dumoh. The country in the neighbourhood is undulating. The village is prettily situated, and there is a small water-fall.

Kerbunna.

Kerbunna, or as it is sometimes written Keirbunna, is an important village on the left bank of the Beas. It is inhabited chiefly by Lodhees, and is held in oobarc. There are about 470 houses and 1,100 people. There is an indigenous school. The Oobareedar, who is called by the people Thakoor, is considered to be one of the chief Lodhees in the Dumoh district. His ancestors are said to have held considerable Jageers. The jumma of the village is Rs. 1,500. It is 24 miles north-west of Dumoh.

Kishengunj.

Kishengunj is a village held in "maafee." It contains 407 houses and a population of 1,100. The Maafeedar is bound to distribute the income of the village to Gossains and other religious mendicants. It is about 10 miles to the north-west of Dumoh. There is a Government village school.

Koomharee.

Koomharee is a village on the road between Dumoh and Allahabad, via Jokehi. There is a tank in this village and a Government school. It is 30 miles from Dumoh. The forest in the neighbourhood of Koomharee is very dense, but contains no trees of any size. The road from here to Jujhar, distant 24 miles, is a mere track through jungle. There is an encamping ground, a police station and a serai.

Koondulpore

Koondulpore is situated at the foot of the Boondela hills, in the north-east of the district. It is about 21 miles distant from Dumoh, and is celebrated for its fair and for the Jain temples built on the surrounding hills. The trade at that fair has already been given, *vide* article "Fairs" in the description of the Dumoh district. The fair is held in March and lasts for a fortnight. The temples are dedicated to "Parusnath." Formerly the Punnah merchants brought diamonds to this fair, but recently pearls and corals only have been brought.

Kota is an old town, about 22 miles north-east of Dumoh, on the right bank of the Bearmee. It is inhabited by traders who export grain to Bundelkund. The town, or rather village, has diminished in size and importance since the cession of the country by the Mahrattas. There are now only 158 houses and 667 inhabitants.

DUMOH.
Kota.

Mangurh is held by the Talooqdar Habzul Kabir. It is on the route from Dumoh to Sohagpore, and is 21 miles east south-east of the former; latitude $28^{\circ} 40'$, longitude $79^{\circ} 50'$.

Mangurh.

Muriadoh, also Meriadoh, is a village and fort prettily situated on a pool of the Jogeedabar nullah, about 10 miles north of Huttah. The fort was built by the Boondelas of Churkaree, to whom until 1860 Muriadoh belonged. It was then taken in exchange for some territory in the Humeerpore district of Bundelkund. There is a building in the fort called the "Baradurree," or summer-house, where the Churkaree Rajah used to stay when he visited the place. Not far from the village is a timber plantation known as the "rumna." Here there are some teak and kowah trees. There are numerous weavers, who make the ordinary coarse cloth. There is a police station, a district post office and a village school. The school meets in the Baradurree. Muriadoh is 44 miles south from Chutterpoor and 66 east north-east from Saugor. Latitude $24^{\circ} 17'$; longitude $79^{\circ} 41'$

Muriadoh.

Near this village is the confluence of the Goreia and the Bearmee. It is on the main road to Jubbulpore. Near the village are the ruins of some Jain temples; these are well worth seeing. A branch dispensary and a Police station are located at this village. There is an encamping ground for troops. There are only about seventy houses in the village.

Huttah.

Nursingurh is a very old town, to which allusion has constantly been made in the history of the district. It was rebuilt by the Mahomedans. A fort and mosque still remain. The former has been described. The place stands on the right bank of the Sonar river, 12 miles north-west of Dumoh. The former name of the place was Nusrutgurh; and the name was changed by the Mahrattas, who built also a second fort. This was partially destroyed by British troops in 1857-58. It had afforded shelter to the Shahgurh rebels. Most of the stone houses as well as the forts are now in ruins. The place now contains 333 inhabited houses, and a population of 956. During the Mahratta rule an Amil resided here. There is now a Police station and a market. It is on the route from Saugor to Rewah, and is 43 miles east north-east of the former. Its elevation above the sea is 1,814 feet; latitude 20° ; longitude $79^{\circ} 27'$.

Nursingurh.

Panchum Nuggur is situated on rather a steep hill, on the left bank of the Beas river. Ruined houses and stone enclosures indicate that it was once a larger village than it is now. There are the remains of an old fort. It is said to have been founded by Panchon, the wife of Hirdey Shah. It contains 637 houses and a population of 2,024. It is known as the seat of the manufacture of stout country paper. The paper manufacture was established by Hirdey Shah, who invited a skilled

Panchum
Nuggur.

DUMOH.

manufacturer from Saugor. Three different kinds of paper are made here. The first kind is sold at 8 rupees a guddee of 10 quires; the second kind at 5 rupees a guddee; and the third kind at 3 rupees. The out-turn has already been mentioned in the article on the manufactures of the Dumoh district (*q. v.*). Good "dosootee" is also made. The village is 24 miles north-west of Dumoh and 15 south-west of Buttyagurh. There is a Police station and a village school here.

Putharia.

Putharia is a considerable village of 800 houses, and a population of 2,121. It is situated on the main road between Jubbulpore and Saugor. Under the Mahrattas an Amil resided here. There are still several Mahratta families of good repute living here. There is a large school, a dak bungalow, a branch dispensary, a tank, and a Police station. There are both regular and town police. The latter are maintained by a house tax. There is a Hindu shrine where Byragis and other religious mendicants assemble to read the shastras at certain seasons of the year. There are a great many Brahmin residents, and some good houses. The Malgoozar is himself a Brahmin. The great number of rough hewn stones lying about show that the place was once more important than it is now. It is 286 miles south-west of Allahabad and 24 north-west of Dumoh. It is on a range of trap hills, and its elevation above the sea is 1,395 feet. Lat. $23^{\circ} 53'$; long. $79^{\circ} 11'$.

Putera.

Putera contains 756 houses, a good market, and a population of 2,120 people. It is thus rather a large village, and it gives its name to the pergannah. Workers in brass and dealers in grain live here. Koon-dulpore is only about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from this place, which is 18 miles north-east of Dumoh.

Runneh.

Runneh is the fourth town in importance in the Dumoh district. It is inhabited by Brahmans, Bunees and weavers. Although there are many fine tanks in the neighbourhood and several wells, yet in the hot weather there is said to be a scarcity of water. The town contains 660 houses and a population of 3,080. It is about 21 miles north-east of Dumoh and is situated in the Huttah Tehseel. There is a Police station and a Government school established at this place.

Seetanuggur.

Seetanuggur is said to have been founded by the "Seeta" who built the temple at the confluence of the Khopra and Sonar. It is situated on the right bank of the latter river, and is a thriving village, containing 689 houses and a population of 2,539. It is somewhat singular that no less than nine Malgoozars and Lumberdars of neighbouring villages live here. There is a Government school, and a weekly market, and the usual police post.

Tejgurh.

Tejgurh was a more important post during the Mahratta rule than it is now. It was founded by Rajah Tejee Sing, a Lodhee Chief, whose descendants now hold the Hutree talooqa. The fort and walls round the place have been destroyed. It now contains 543 houses and a population of 1,329. There is a good deal of rice cultivation in the immediate neighbourhood and dense scrub jungle or even forest in the uncultivated portions. The inhabitants are chiefly "Aheers," and the place is famous

for a breed of cattle supposed originally to have come from Bundelkund. Game is abundant in the neighbourhood. The place is about 24 miles south of Dumoh; there is a Government school here.

DUMOH.

Ubhana.

Ubhana is a village on the Jubbulpore and Dumoh road. It is 52 miles from the former, and 11 miles from the latter. There is a good tank here, and supplies are procurable. The tank abounds in fish and water-fowl. There is a good encamping ground in the neighbourhood.

Bearmee river.

This river is spelt both Biarmi and Bearmee. It rises in the Vindhya range in the Saugor and Nerbudda territory, at an elevation of 1700 feet above the sea; in lat. $23^{\circ} 20'$ long. $79^{\circ} 3'$. Its source is a small pond or tank in the Gond village of Bhurjee. It has a north-easterly course of about 110 miles, and falls into the Sonar, (or receives that river) on the right bank; in lat. $24^{\circ} 20'$, long. $79^{\circ} 55'$. About ten miles below the junction the united rivers enter the Cane. The slope of the bed is 700 feet, or about 7 feet per mile, its velocity is therefore considerable. The principal places on its banks are Deoree, Huttree, Nowtah, Foojhar, and Gysabad.

Khopra river

The Khopra river rises near Jeipoor in the Rehli Tehseel. It rises in latitude $23^{\circ} 26'$; longitude $79^{\circ} 9'$, in some low hills that separate Deoree from Rehli. It runs for a short distance on the boundary of the Saugor and Dumoh district, and then passing to the westward of Bolcho, it falls into the Sonar at Merkolah between Nuggur and Kootree. At the junction of the river is a Hindu temple built by a woman named Seeta, who is also said to have founded Nuggur; hence the name Seetanuggur. The point of its junction is in latitude $24^{\circ} 3'$, longitude $79^{\circ} 31'$. It is only about 55 miles long.

HOSHUNGABAD.**Boundaries.**

The district of Hoshungabad forms a portion of the Nerbudda valley lying entirely on the left bank of that river and including some large tracts in the Sautpoora hills. It is bounded on the north by the territories of Bhopal, Scindhia, and Holkar, from which it is separated by the Nerbudda. On the east the Doodhie river divides it from the Nursingpore district; on the west it adjoins the Nimar district, the boundary being the Chota Towa river which flows into the Nerbudda, a stream called the Goollie which flows into the Taptee, and an imaginary line across the hills joining the sources of those two streams. On the south lie the districts of western Berar, Baitool and Chindwara. The boundary line on this side is very uncertain and arbitrary. For many miles it lies along the foot of the hills or includes only the outer spurs and low hills which fringe the Sautpoora range. But in four places it makes a great sweep to the south, and brings in four large hill tracts, known as the Mahadewa hills and the Talooqas Malini, Rajaboraree, and Kaleebheet respectively. The boundary line includes Kaleebheet by following the river where it flows out of the Rajaboraree hills to the Taptee—it marches with the Taptee for 16 miles until it meets the Nimar frontier, and turns northward again along the little stream called the Goollie.

Physical features.

The district is a long valley of varying breadth, running for 150 miles between the Nerbudda and the Sautpoora range. The soil consists in the main of the well known black basaltic alluvium, often more than 20 feet deep. There are submontane tracts of red soil and rock, with low hills of various formations. From Lokurtullai (near Seonee) eastward to the extremity of the district, these are almost invariably of the Mahadeo sandstone—its line "faulted" or broken here and there by the intrusion of other rocks notably at Patrota, where the road from Hoshungabad towards Baitool strikes the base of the Sautpooras, and "passes close*" under two high pointed hills, which are formed of nearly vertical beds of schistoze quartzite." It is to the east of the glen of the Towa river that the district boundary takes its southern sweep which brings in the Malini forests and the Mahadeo hills. Below the northern basis of the Mahadeo hills, lies an inner valley shut out from the main Nerbudda valley by an irregular chain of low hills, and drained by the Denwa river. A little beyond Futtehpoor, which stands in the gorge through which the Denwa valley is entered from the plains, the boundary line of the district turns north to the Nerbudda. All down along the Nerbudda, as far westward as Hindia, the champaign country is only broken by a few isolated rocks, but to the west of Hindia the plain is crossed and cut up by low stony hills and broadbacked ridges. Here the Vindhya throw out jutting spurs, which occupy a large area, and are known as the Byree hills; and from the south-west the Sautpooras push up similar branches

* Geological Survey of India, Vol. II, page 281.

which almost touch the Vindhya outposts. Still farther west, in Nimar, the hills do unite and thus enclose the alluvial basin.

HOSHUNGA-BAD,

Forests.

The Kaleebheet forest is a wide tract, of about 80 miles in length by 20 in breadth. A portion of it, some 120 square miles, has been reserved by the Forest Department, but although the wood is plentiful, it is now of small scantling. Another reserve has been made in Rajaboraree, and there is some good saj and rohnah timber in the glen of the Towa.

But the finest forests are the two reserved tracts which were made over to this district from Chindwara in 1865—the Boree and Denwa forests. The Boree tract has an area of about 150 square miles, lying below the Mahadeo hills; and, though now only recovering from the axe and the fire of the hill men, it promises to become, under proper management, a splendid teak forest. The Denwa reserve contains about 100 square miles, extending close under the Puchmurrees along the valley of the Denwa river; it is a level forest with a good deal of fine large sal wood. Throughout the woodland country the teak is very common, and the saplings thrive well where they are protected. There are some such tracts on the Nerbudda, and a good deal of forest lies west of Hindia.

Of jungle, scrub, or brushwood, there is more or less throughout the valley, but least in the eastern and most in the western pergunnahs. To the east of Seonee the jungle has been merely allowed to remain in the poor sandy soil which is not worth cultivation. Strips of wood run down along the sandy banks of the streams which cross the flat plain from the hills. But in Charwa there is an extensive tract of dense low forest.

Rivers.

The chief rivers are the Anjun, Towa, Hathere, Denwa, Gunjal, Morun and the Doodhye; besides the great boundary streams of the Nerbudda and Taptee. Of these minor rivers, the Towa is the largest. It debouches from the Sautpoora hills through a rather picturesque gorge, about 16 miles south-east of Hoshungabad town. It drains a large area within the hills to the south; its tributaries among the hills reach many miles to the east and west; and its floods in the rainy season are sudden and violent. Its bed exposes many fine sections showing the geological structure of the hills through which it has forced its way. Trending rather westerly from the hills across the valley, it spreads out into a wide sandy channel, troublesome to pass in the dry season, and difficult during the rains, and it joins the Nerbudda at a point some four miles above Hoshungabad. In the angle of the junction stands an old temple, and the place has a certain odour of sanctity, to which an annual religious gathering and fair of some local repute, owe their origin.

Towa.

The Denwa river runs almost in a rough semicircle round the scarped cliffs on the eastern and northern faces of the Mahadeo hills. It winds through a deep glen out into the interior valley above described, and

Denwa.

HOSHUNGABAD.

entering the hills again towards the west it meets the Towa a few miles above Bagra.

Gunjal and Morun.

The Gunjal and Morun cross the plain between Seonee and Hurda on their way from the Sautpooras to the Nerbudda. They are crossed by the highroad and by the railway. During the rainy season they are mountain torrents, impassable when the floods are out; for the rest of the year they are clear shallow streams, flowing pleasantly over gravelly beds in deep ravines—they unite before reaching the Nerbudda. In the bed of the Morun, before it leaves the hills, has been found a vein of indifferent coal. The district is throughout intersected by innumerable little streams, most of them perennial, which run down from the hills to the Nerbudda.

Nerbudda.

The general appearance of the Nerbudda does not vary from the eastern border of the district down as far west as Hindia. Along the northern bank, the Vindhya advance or recede in irregular outline, but only approach close upon the stream just above Hoshungabad where its channel skirts the hills for some miles. The Mahadeo range stands well back, with the whole valley between.* In this section of the river its fall is much less than in the part of its course below Hindia, and all its chief tributaries flow in from the south side. Just above Hoshungabad at the confluence of the Towa, and again below the town, there are rapids which effectually bar the passage of boats, except in the rains. Below Hindia the river meets with the jutting spurs of the Vindhya, the flat country on the left bank ceases, the banks are rocky, and for the most part covered with jungle. At Jogah the Vindhya range sweeps abruptly down towards the Nerbudda and turns its course southward as far as Pallasee, near the western extremity of the Hoshungabad district.

Roads.

The best road in the district is now that portion of the line from Hoshungabad by Etarsee towards Baitool, which lies within this district. It is for the most part metalled, bridged and embanked. It passes the railroad at the Etarsee station, 11 miles from Hoshungabad. The highroad to Bombay, which runs right through the district from east to west, is only aligned in parts, and nowhere well embanked or drained. Bridges have been built over a few of the streams, and causeways thrown across others. The road from Hurda to Hindia,—the old highroad in the days of the Moguls from the Deccan to Agra,—is a wide track and well defined, but not metalled, and out of repair. All other roads in the district are merely fair weather routes, which are being gradually demarcated and drained. The roads from Seonee and Hurda towards Baitool are very decently practicable, except in the rainy months. The Great Indian Peninsula Railroad now intersects the whole district from west to east, with stations at Bagra, Hurdah, Seonee Etarsee, Sohangpore and Bunbeheree. It crosses the Towa river by a viaduct at the opening of the gorge through which the river issues from the

Railway.

* See Geological Survey Memoirs, Vol. II, Nerbudda district.

Sautpooras, and it is carried by a short tunnel under an interposing projection of the hill close by. A system of railway feeders has for some time been under the consideration of the Local Government, and is gradually being carried out.

HOSHUNGA-BAD.

The temperature is said to be warmer than that of Nursingpore or Jubbulpore, but it is of a very medium character, free from excess of heat and cold. The direct rays of the sun are very powerful; but hot winds are the exception, and are seldom very violent, while the nights in the hot weather and rains are always cool. The thermometer seldom rises above 100° in the shade, the average maximum of July, August and September 1864 was 91° in the shade, the average minimum was 73°. The cold weather is seldom bitter and often hardly bracing, though frosts of one or two nights' duration are not uncommon. The rain-fall is exceedingly variable, ranging between the limits of 40 and 60 inches in the year.

Climate.

In 1864 the rain-fall of the four rainy months was 54 inches,—as much as 11 inches having fallen on two separate occasions in 48 hours. The winter rains are very regular, insomuch that it is a local proverb that there have been famines from too much rain, but never any from drought. From the position of the district, as a long valley or gorge between the two great ranges of the Sautpoora and Vindhya hills, it is subject to violent atmospheric changes, and the harshest is seldom gathered without hail storms and thunder showers; dust storms however are unknown. On the whole, considering that the district is within the tropics, and not raised above the ordinary level of Indian plains, it may be considered fortunate in having a climate which is decidedly better than might have been expected. Hoshungabad itself is about 1,000 feet above the sea, but as the fall of the valley is 20 feet in 7 miles, the eastern end of the district is about 400 feet higher than the western end. An east wind blows often in the cold weather, and is rather bitter and piercing.

Some account should be given of the Mahadeo hills, which have lately been made over to this district. They are the finest in the whole Sautpoora range, and at one point rise to a height of 4,500 feet above the sea. It is in this cluster that the very remarkable group of rocks known by geologists under the name of the Mahadeo sandstone attains its greatest development.* Here the sandstone mass presents a thickness of 2,000 feet, and the finest of all those striking vertical escarpments which characterize this formation, is seen on the south face of the Mahadeo block, where it rises from the flat ground of the Denwa valley. The summits of the Puchmurree hills, as seen from the Nerbudda valley, present a huge grotesque outline which bears marked contrast with the ordinary contour of the basaltic range. These hills are entirely isolated from the main Sautpoora range by scarpes and precipitous ravines. The Denwa and Sonebundra rivers, both rising in the valley to the south of the range, and flowing in opposite directions,

Mahadeo hills.

*Memoirs of Geological Survey, Vol. II. page 183.

NERBUNGA-BAD.

encircle almost entirely the Puchmurree group before they unite on its north side. The slope of the hills to the north is as gentle and easy, as the cliff to the south is steep and abrupt; and laden animals, or even wheeled carts, may soon be able to ascend by the road which is now under construction, and which runs direct to the plateau from the Bunbeheree railway station, some twenty miles distant from the foot of the mountain. The ascent up the hill may be twelve miles long. Nothing can be prettier than the plateau itself, varied like a park with glades and clumps of trees, watered by a stream that runs winding down nearly its whole length, and curiously sheltered from the winds and storms by a rim of low rocks that bound it wherever it borders upon the outer face of the hills.

"The Puchmurree plateau, round which the Chauradeo, Juta Pahar, and Dhoopgurh hills stand sentinel, is about 3,500 feet high, or 2,500 feet above the plain in which Sohagpore lies; and its average temperature is probably from 7 to 10 degrees lower. It is not free from fever, and in the rains the violence of the downfall and the growth of the jungle would make it unendurable; but when the roads of approach to it are finished, and houses built, the residents of the valley will be able to escape from heat and glare to one of the greenest, softest and most lovely of sanitaria that exist in India." Appended to this article are tables showing the comparative temperature of Puchmurree, the plains below and Umrifirkuntuk.

Unhonie hot springs.

"There is a hot spring at Unhonie, nearly due north of Mahadeo, at the edge of the outer range, which divides the Denwa from the Nerbudda valley; it is said to be good for boils and skin diseases and is much visited. There is another hot spring south-east of Unhonie about 16 miles off, known as Mahaljhir, which is said to be too hot to dip the hand into."

According to the Settlement returns, the area of the district is 3,400 square miles; of this 2,200 square miles are contained in the fertile valley of the Nerbudda, and the hill tracts are estimated to cover about 1,200 square miles.

Area and population.

The population of the district, according to the census of November 1866, amounts to 440,433 souls, giving an average of 105 to the square mile. Of this population 47 per cent are returned as females. The agriculturists are to the mercantile and artizan population as 100 to 114.

Agriculture.

The district is almost entirely agricultural; and from the thinness of the population and the plentifulness of waste land all round, it naturally follows that the cultivation is not laborious nor of a high order. Cereals are raised entirely without manure and irrigation, and the rich black soil of the valley is almost independent of any system of rotation, and produces fine crops of wheat without change or fallow for 30 or 40 years.

Only garden crops and sugarcane are manured and watered. The total cultivated area of the district in the year 1864, was 752,300 acres

and the principal crops grown, are cotton, gram, wheat, jowar, and tillee; but since 1864 a great quantity of the land formerly under gram, jowar and tillee has been given up to cotton. But the great flatness of the land is against the cultivation of cotton and is the chief cause why khurreef (or rain) crops bear so small a proportion to rubbee (or cold weather) crops. The black soil will only grow rain crops when it is thoroughly well drained, and in default of a good system of subsoil draining this amounts to saying, that rain crops will only grow in ground which slopes considerably and which is generally light and stony. The black soil when supplied with unlimited moisture and heat throws up a crop of weeds which choke whatever is sown, and which from the deep, muddy nature of the soil cannot be hoed up till dry weather comes; consequently this soil, which is by far the prevailing one, will only grow rubbee crops, and is devoted almost entirely to wheat.

In 1860, before the American war, the cotton growing area was calculated at 24,000 acres producing 40 lbs to the acre. In 1864 the extent of area had doubled, but the cotton is never or very seldom grown on what is called the "black cotton soil"; it is confined to the lighter or inferior soils.

The Government waste lands are chiefly hilly tracts, only useful for pasturage or fit for growing teak or other timber. But at the western extremity of the district, in the Charwa pergannah, there are some very fine waste lands which would well repay the expense of cultivation. South of the high road to Bombay there are about 200 square miles of such land, interspersed only with 3 or 4 villages: low ranges of stony hills run through the tract, covered with low scrub. In the valleys between, which are often of considerable depth, the soil is of very fine quality.

There are a few good brood mares in the district, most of them belong to substantial Goojur malgoozars, who breed in a small way; and the better class of farmers from Hindoostan seem always to have kept horses for riding. But horses and ponies are by no means so common as in Upper India. Two fine stallions have been procured by the Government for improving the district stock.

The cattle belong mostly to the Malwa and up country breeds; the Malwa stock being in highest favour. The oxen are stout beasts useful for heavy draught and for ploughing the deep black soil, but much inferior in pace and activity to the small Berar bullocks. Of late years there have been very large importations of high priced cattle from the north, to meet the demand among the prosperous agriculturists of this valley. Sheep breeding is not carried on to any large extent; the supply is from Bundelkund.

Coal is found in small quantities in the bed of almost every stream which cuts through the Mahadeo sandstone range, notably in the bed of the Towa; but no coal mines of any value have yet been worked in this district.

HOSHANGA-
BAD.

Waste lands.

Horses and
Cattle.

Minerals.

HOSHUNGABAD.

Forest products.

Administrative subdivisions.

Agricultural Classes.

Ironstone is found in several places, especially in the low hills near Hurda, and is roughly smelted by the hill tribes.

Fruits, drugs, dyes and tanning barks are brought down from the hills; a little Tussa silk is grown, and some lac is collected, but not in any large quantities.

At Hoshungabad are the Courts, Civil and Criminal, of the Deputy Commissioner and of his Assistants. The Deputy Commissioner is also chief revenue officer, and is generally charged with the executive administration of the district. Here also is the office of the Collector of Customs, and of a Patrol.

The district has four administrative subdivisions, under Tehseeldars, who have their head-quarters at Hoshungabad, Sohagpoor, Seonee, and Hurda, and who exercise judicial and fiscal authority in minor cases. There are Police stations at all the four places above mentioned, also at Bunbeheree and Charwa near the eastern and western extremities of the district. Several outposts of Police are stationed at various intermediate points.

An Assistant Commissioner resides and holds Court at Hurda.

The principal agricultural classes are, in the east, Kerars, Goojurs, Rubgumsees, emigrants from Bundelkund and from Oudh. Westward Goojurs, Jats, Rajpeots, and Bishnaes from Marwar and Malwa, Koormees and Mainos from Nimar and Kandeish. There are also a large number of Gonds and Korkoos—aboriginal hill tribes—with a non-Aryan language, and non-Aryan habits of their own. In the valley they are considered too improvident to be good cultivators but are hardworking and trustworthy farm servants.

In the hill tracts they form the sole population. Gonds and Korkoos alone inhabiting the eastern tracts of Puchmurree and Malini. Korkoos with an admixture of Gonds occupying Rajaboraree and Kaleebheet. They are chiefly remarkable for their truthfulness, inoffensiveness and shyness, and it is hard to believe that only 50 years ago they were the most reckless and daring of robbers, and that their depredations filled the whole valley with terror and gave to Malini its title of Chormalini or "Robber Malini." There has probably never been an instance of the character of a whole race being so completely changed in a generation by peaceful government.

The subjoined figures which are understood to be rather under the mark show, that the population is most numerous in the eastern pergunnahs and decreases rapidly from pergunnah to pergunnah going towards the west.

	<i>Persons</i>
Rajwarra	.. 166
Sohagpore	.. 165
Hoshungabad	.. 146
Seonee	.. 130
Hurda	.. 123

} per square mile.

The non-agricultural portion of the people is very small as compared with the agriculturists. Almost all the principal traders in the towns are Marwarees. There are also the usual classes of petty shopkeepers; and there are large colonies of Weavers, Mehars, Kolees, Chumhars and Koshtas.

HOMOGENEOUS
POPULATION

Non-agricul-
tural popu-
lation

Tenures

In this district, as throughout the Nerbudda valley, there are some estates which have for generations belonged to petty chiefs or heads of families, who have been strong enough to keep their lands together, and to pay only tribute or feudal service to the ruling power. Such have been the Rajahs of Futtepore and Sobhapore; who held their fiefs originally from the princes of Mundla; and who have contrived to retain the bulk of their ancestral estates through the changes of times and dynasties up to the present date. With these also may be classed, but at a long distance below them, the Talooqdar of Babye and one or two other small proprietors who hold at a quit rent some half cultivated tracts of Hurda. These families were undoubtedly lords of their domain, and their proprietary right as talooqdars or quit rent holders has been recognized in the recent Settlement of land revenue. In some cases where long hereditary occupancy appeared to give some prescriptive title to the farmers of villages on these talooqdaree estates, or where the farmers have sunk capital in the land, a sub-settlement has been made to protect them from being ejected at the pleasure of their land-lord.

Besides the estates that have just been described, it may be said generally that no proprietary right or title to land existed when the British took this country in 1818. For many years previously the valley had been the battle ground of contending powers, and latterly all security or settled habits of life must have been utterly extinguished by the wasting inroads of the Pindarees, so that whatever territorial system or institutions may have preceded these troubles, had been swept away.

The British Government certainly recognize no rights. Its Officers leased out the land to one farmer or another as seemed profitable or convenient; the lessees could neither sell, bequeath, and or even sub-let. The tenant right was, if any thing, a little stronger and more defined than the holding of the farmer. Here, as in all countries where the rent is paid by the actual tiller of the soil, the cultivator had acquired more or less of fixity of tenure, of right of occupancy, and was not liable to be ejected by the common working of competition. Indeed, he was usually in no danger of ejection, for agricultural labour was, and is still so scarce, that the farmer had to compete for his tenants and to coax them into remaining with him. The Government has now (1865) bestowed complete proprietary right upon the persons who have engaged to pay the assessment fixed upon the estates, and no restriction is placed upon the alienation of the land. In regard to cultivators, some of them have been invested with right of occupancy as defined by the revenue laws, the rest are tenants at will.

~~NOTES AND~~

There are a few holders of rent-free land, either by virtue of grants from ruling powers, or from subordinate officers, or of religious endowment. These claims have been investigated and admitted where valid, according to the custom of the country.

In fixing the boundaries of the lands bestowed on the Malgoozars in proprietary right the excessive wastes have been marked off, as mentioned elsewhere, and reserved by Government; an area bearing a fixed proportion to the cultivated property having been left to the proprietor.

Such are the tenures in the valley. The status of the petty hill Chiefs in the Mahadeo hills deserves special mention. For many generations their ancestors held the difficult and unproductive country on and around the Puchmurree plateau, under a sort of feudal subjection to the rulers of Deogurh and Nagpore, but never entirely subdued until 1818. They sheltered and supported Appa Sahib when he escaped into their fastnesses; they raised their clans in his favour; and were thoroughly put down by the British troops sent to expel him. But the British agents adopted the policy of maintaining these talooqdars in their rights, continuing the same system of receiving nominal tribute from some, while others received stipends from the State. Upon the recommendation of Mr. Temple, Chief Commissioner, the British Government has now formally confirmed them in this position,—all of these Jageerdars, except the Zemindar of Raekheree who rebelled in 1858, when Tantia Topee's force crossed the Nerbudda, and actually repulsed a small detachment of Madras troops that went out against him. His lands were necessarily confiscated. A short description of their jageers, taken from the Chief Commissioner's report, is here annexed.

~~Almode.~~

This Zemindar is one of the Bhopas, or the hereditary heads of the temple in the Mahadeo hills. The Zemindaree consists of 29 villages. A revenue demand is levied of 40 rupees per annum, but the Zemindar receives 200 rupees per aum from Government, in lieu of Pilgrim tax.

~~Puchmurree.~~

This Zemindar is the principal of the Bhopas, or hereditary priests of the temple on the Mahadeo hills. The Zemindaree consists of 24 villages, in the very heart of the hills and forests. It contains much beautiful sal timber, and the Chief has arranged for its being preserved by the Government Forest department. There is a Government demand fixed on this Zemindaree of 25 rupees per annum, and the Zemindar receives 750 rupees per annum, in lieu of Pilgrim tax.

~~Pugarah.~~

This Zemindar is one of the Bhopas, or the hereditary heads of the temple in the Mahadeo hills of Puchmurree, where also the Zemindaree is situated. It comprised originally only ten villages. In A. D. 1820, four villages from a talook in Pertabgurh, were added, making a total of 14 villages.

HOSHANGABAD.
DIST.

Manufactures.

There is no revenue demand levied; and the Zemindar receives 150 rupees annually, in lieu of Pilgrim tax.

There are no manufactures of any note in the district, and few handicrafts, except the ordinary leather curing, weaving and the like. The workers in brass have a good name in the country round. The local weaving trade was flourishing, until the enormous demand for cotton in 1863-64 raised the price of raw material beyond their means. Cotton was exported, and English piece goods were imported. These disadvantages, with the high price of day labour, stopped a large number of looms; but the trade has by no means succumbed yet, and will probably continue for some time to supply the coarser and stouter fabrics in which the out-door working man clothes himself and family.

The export trade is almost entirely composed of agricultural produce. It is a very large and increasing trade, affording employment to a great deal of capital and a large number of merchants, and pouring an immense quantity of silver into the district. It has received a great stimulus of late by the high prices which have prevailed in Malwa and Berar, in consequence of bad seasons, increased consumption, and other causes. The real value of wheat exported has been roughly calculated at four lakhs of rupees annually, according to variation of prices.

Export trade.

Besides wheat, the export of gram, oil seeds, and cotton, is considerable. In return English piece goods, spices and cocoanuts, are the principal imports from the West. Salt from Bhopal, sugar by way of Mirzapore from the East. But the gradual approach of the open railway head from the West increases every year the tendency of the district trade in that direction. When the line is completed it is most probable that this part of the Nerbudda country will deal almost entirely with Bombay.

It has been roughly reckoned that five lakhs of rupees worth of English piece goods are imported every year.

The imperial Seer of 80 tolahs' weight is used throughout the district. The dry measures used in the eastern divisions differ in content from those used in the western divisions, as will be seen from table subjoined.

Weights and
Measures.

Measures used to the east of Hoshangabad, and in the Hoshangabad Tehsil Circle.

8 Pies	... 1 Kooroo
3 Kooroos	... 1 Mun
8 Muns	... 1 Manee

Measures used in Seonee and the western Circles.

8 Pies	..1 Kooroo
3 Kooroos	..1 Mun
12 Muns	..1 Manee

So that the western Manee is just one and a half times as great as the eastern.

The pie measure has a capacity of 75·40 cubic inches, and its contents should weigh 90 tolas. Of superficial measures, there is the

REVENUE AREA. revenue beegah, exactly corresponding to the British statute acre. The local agricultural measurement is by the quantity of wheat that can be sown in a given area. Thus a Manee of land means the area in which a Manee of grain would be sown, and this is about 5 acres.

History. Little is known of the ancient history of the district before the Mahratta invasion. The eastern portion, or the Rajwara pergannah, is owned by four Gond rajahs, who derive their title from the Rajali of Mundla.

The centre of the district was subject to the Rajah of Deogurh either directly, as Sohagpore, or indirectly through his feudatories the petty Rajahs of Bagra and Saolegurh.

In the extreme west the Gond Rajah of Mukrai had an extensive independent jurisdiction. But there are hardly any writings or traditions belonging to this period. In Akbar's time Hindia was the headquarters of a Sircar, and was occupied by a Foujdar and Dewan, and by Moghul troops; Seonee was attached to a province of Bhopal; and Hoshungabad is not mentioned at all. Several reasons concur to give probability to the idea that the eastern part of the district was never conquered by Delhi at all, but was thought too wild and valueless to wrest from the Gonds who occupied it. Dost Mahomed, the founder of the Bhopal family, took Hoshungabad itself and annexed a considerable territory with it, from Seonee to the Towa, or to Sohagpore as some say. From the dates of sunnuds now existing he must have done this about the year 1720, A. D. In 1742, A. D. the Peshwa, Balajee Bajee-Row, passed up the valley on his way to attack Mundla; but he seems to have kept permanent possession of the Hindia pergannahs only. In 1750-51 Rajah Rughojee Bhonsla of Nagpore overran the whole range of hills from Gawilgurh to Mahadeo, and reduced the country east of Hindia and south of the Nerbudda, except the portion held by Bhopal.

The Rajwara Gond Rajahs seem to have retained their independence until 1775, A. D., and we hear of no hostilities between Bhopal and Nagpore about this time. But in 1795, A. D. an officer of Rughojee's attacked and took Hoshungabad. In 1802, A. D. Wuzeer Mahomed, the ruler of Bhopal, retook it; he also occupied Seonee, 30 miles to the west of Hoshungabad and made an unsuccessful attack on Sohagpore. The Bhopal Chief held the country round Hoshungabad until he was driven across the Nerbudda by the Nagpore troops in 1807.

During the war which followed between Nagpore and Bhopal, Wuzeer Mahomed called in the Pindarees to his help, and till they were finally extirpated in 1817 the whole of this fertile valley was a prey to their insatiable thirst for plunder and disregard of life. Large tracts of country were laid entirely waste, and the accumulated wealth of the district was effectively dispersed.

In 1818 that part of the district which was owned by Nagpore was ceded under the agreement of that year, confirmed by the treaty of

1826. In 1844 the district of Hurda Hindia was made over by Sindiah at an estimated value of Rs. 1,40,000, in part payment of the Gwaliot contingent; and by the treaty of 1860 it was permanently transferred, and became British territory. The mutiny of 1857 disturbed this district very little. There was some trouble with the Police at Hurda—a petty Chief rebelled in the Mahadeo hills, and Tantia Topee crossed the valley in 1858. But the authority of the British officers was at no time seriously shaken.

Hoshungabad is the head-quarters of the district of the same name. It is situated in latitude $20^{\circ} 40'$ north, longitude $77^{\circ} 51'$ east, on the south side of the Nerbudda, which is here 700 yards wide from bank to bank, while in the hot weather the stream is about 300 yards across, and is fordable both above and below the town. The road from Bhopal to Baitool and Nagpore passes through it, as also the highroad to Bombay, although the greater part of the through traffic cuts off the angle made here and passes about five miles to the south.

The town is supposed to have been founded by Hoshung Shah, the 2nd of the Ghori kings of Malwa, who reigned about 1405, A. D. (according to Prinsep's genealogical tables.) It is said that he died and was buried here, but that his bones were removed to Mandoo and buried again there. The town, however, remained very small till the Bhopal conquest, about 1720, A. D., when the fort was either built or enlarged, and a trading population began to collect round it. The fort was a very massive stone building of irregular shape, with its base on the river commanding the road to Bhopal. It has now been mostly removed away. It was attacked in 1795, A. D. by Beni Singh Soubadar, an officer of the Rajah of Nagpore, and after a two months' siege was evacuated by the Bhopal troops.

In 1802, A. D. the Killadar, or Governor of the fort, was a Mahratta Brahmin, a man of peace; and his fears were so worked on by men in the Bhopal influence, that he gave it up without a blow, and it was immediately reoccupied by Wuzeer Mahomed, then the virtual ruler of Bhopal. This success added so much to his prestige and military strength that he overran all the Sohagpore pergannah and besieged the fort of Sohagpore; but before he could take it the siege was raised by the arrival of a force from Seonee Chuparah, which defeated him with heavy loss. He was hotly pursued into Hoshungabad and making a stand outside the town, his horse was killed under him. A rude stone figure of a horse still marks the spot. He mounted his celebrated tail-less horse, Punkraj (which gave him the title of Banda ghora ka aswar), and escaped only by leaping him over the battlement of the fort. The Nagpore army besieged the fort for some time, and being unable to take it, contented themselves with burning the town and departed. In 1809 Hoshungabad was again attacked by a Nagpore force, and after a siege of three months, when their communications with Bhopal were cut off and a battery erected on the north side of the river against them, the garrison surrendered. In 1817 General Adams

HOSHUNGABAD.

Principal towns.

Hoshungabad.

**HOSHUNGHA
NAD.**

occupied the town and threw up some earthworks outside it to protect it against an enemy coming from the south and east. From 1818 A. D. it has been the residence of the chief British official in charge of the district, and lately it has been made the head-quarters of the Nerbudda division. A church has just been built, and a central jail is under construction. There is a dispensary and there are one or two well filled schoolhouses. It is also occupied by the wing of a native regiment. It is the head-quarters of the English piece goods trade of the district and a good deal is done in cotton, grain and bills of exchange. The bazar is a good one, with some petty shops at which European articles are sold. The railway passes about 12 miles off. The nearest station is Etarsee, on the Baitool road. The population of the town is 8,032 souls.

Hindia.

An old Mahomedan town, formerly the head-quarters of a Sircar or district under Akbar's rule. It had a handsome stone fort on the river, said to have been built by Hoshung Shah Ghori of Malwa, now dismantled. It was on the old highroad from the Deccan to Agra and was once a large and flourishing place, of which the extent may still be traced by the ruins scattered for some distance along the bank of the Nerbudda. On the withdrawal of the Moghul officials, about 1700 A. D., and the construction of a straighter and better road across the Vindhya hills via Indore, Hindia fell to ruin, and its present population is only 1992 souls. It was given up by the Mahrattas in 1817 to the British force at Hurdah. It had a large number of Joolahas, or Mahomedan weavers once, but they have all emigrated. There is no likelihood of its recovering its former importance.

Hurdah.

Is on the highroad to Bombay, the chief town in the pergannah of Hurdah, in the western extremity of the district. It has risen on the ruins of Hindia, which is 12 miles off, and the population of which has principally removed to Hurdah. Under the Mahratta Government it was the residence of the Amil, and on the opening of the campaign in 1817 Sir John Malcolm established here the head-quarters of the army under his command. Since the cession in 1844 it has been occupied by an Assistant Commissioner in special charge of the subdivision; and the Tehseeldar, who resides here, holds subordinate criminal, civil, and revenue jurisdiction. It was a thriving place of trade when the country was ceded, and has increased in size. Since then a good deal has been done for its improvement, and its principal street is broad and well built, and a handsome market place has been laid out, surrounded by substantial houses. In 1864 an anicut was thrown across the river close by, which secured a good and convenient water supply to the people. All these improvements were carried out by Mr. J. Beddy, who has resided as Assistant Commissioner at Hurdah for several years, and to whose activity and practical resource the town owes very much of its prosperity. There is a railway station here. The principal trade in which the merchants engage is the export of grain and oil seeds. Population 7,499 souls.

HOSHUNGA-BAD.
Seonee.

The town of Seonee is an old one, as it existed in the time of Akbar; but there are no old buildings about it. The present town dates from the conquest of the country round it by Rughejee Bhonsla of Nagpore, about 1750, A. D., since which time till cession, an Amil resided here and a fort was built, under the protection of which a town grew up. The fort was taken in 1818 by a detachment of British troops from Hoshungabad. Seonee is situated on the highroad to Bombay, and is a most populous and thriving place, only checked in its extension by the difficulty of getting building ground. It is the chief mercantile town in the Hoshungabad district, and probably in the whole Nerbudda valley. The trade its merchants are chiefly engaged in is the cotton trade, and all the cotton exported to Bombay from Bhopal and Nursingpore, as well as the Hoshungabad district, passes through their hands. There is also a large export trade in grain and import of English cotton fabrics, metals, and spices. The railway passes through Seonee, and has a station here. A serai has been built for the accommodation of travellers. It is the residence of a Tehsceldar, and of a Patrol of the Customs department.

Is situated on the highroad to Bombay, about 30 miles east of Hoshungabad. It had a fine stone fort (now dismantled) built about 80 years ago by Foujdar Khan, a Mahomedan Jageerdar, who held the surrounding country for Nagpore. In 1803 it was attacked by Wuzeer Mahomed of Bhopal, without success, and he was defeated under its walls. There was a mint here for about ten years, and a Sohagpore rupee struck, which is now very rare; it was worth about 13 annas. The town was a thriving one formerly, though it has fallen away now. It has still the largest Mahomedan population in the Hoshungabad district after Hoshungabad itself. Some artificers carry on the trades of silk weaving, and lac melting. There is a Tehseeldaree and Police station-house here, a railway station, and a good serai for railway travellers. Population 6,008 souls.

Sohagpore.

Sobapore.

A large village in the Hoshungabad district, about 36 miles east of Hoshungabad and 6 miles from Sohagpore. It is the residence of a Gond rajah. The town is off the highroad. It is the head-quarters of the native weaving trade in the neighbourhood; it has the local corn exchange; and at the weekly market, which is the best in the district, there is a large demand for country cloth from Nursingpore and elsewhere.

Futtehpore.

Is a large village situated on the outer slope of the low limestone hills which shut in the Donwa valley just below the Mahadeo mountain. The road from Bankherce up to Puchmurree passes through this place, which was formerly of some importance, as being the residence of an old family of Gond rajahs, who held a kind of semi-independent dominion over the surrounding country from the days of the Mundla dynasty down to our own times. The present representatives of the line hold large proprietary estates in the neighbourhood, and still live at Futtehpore. Tantia Topee passed this way to the Sautpooras in 1858.

HOSHUNGABAD.
Babye.

Babye is a flourishing village on the highroad, 16 miles east of Hoshungabad, with an excellent weekly market. The road to the Bagra railway station (six miles distant), branches off at this place. There is a neat schoolhouse and a police outpost.

Timoornie.

A small town in the Hoshungabad district, on the Bombay road about 7 miles east of Hurdah. It belongs to a Jageerdar of the Bhoscutta family, who has petty criminal jurisdiction in it, but does not usually reside there; an agent has charge of the fort on his behalf; it is a stone building of no strength. There are some pan (betel) gardens here, and vegetables are grown for the Hurdah market. Population 4,400 souls.

Bankheree.

Bankheree is a small town on the highroad from Jubbulpore, some 50 miles east of Hoshungabad. Here is a railway station; and the road to the Puchmurree sanitarium runs due south from this point towards Futtehpore.

Charwa.

Charwa. A small town lying west of Hurdah, on the old highroad to Bombay. There are one or two substantial traders here and it has a good weekly market, but it lies away from the railroad and the main routes north or south. A Police station is located here.

Mukrai territory.

A small independent chiefship in the Hurdah pergunnah of the Hoshungabad district, containing 92 villages with a revenue of Rs. 22,000. The rajah is a Gond and is afflicted with a goitre, supposed to be hereditary. The territory was formerly much larger, including Kaleebheet and Charwa, but the Peishwa and Scindhia annexed all, except the estate he now holds. The Rajah, in virtue of his position as a feudatory, has civil and criminal jurisdiction in his Jageer, and its internal administration is not interfered with by the British Government.

Mukrai.

Mukrai itself is an insignificant village, in and round a hill fort which the rajah inhabits; but there are some rich villages in the valley, among which Sirolia has a good market once a week. The total area of the Jageer is about 215 square miles.

Antiquities

At Jogah, or Jogeegurh, 13 miles west of Hindia, there is a Pathan fort in perfect condition, very picturesquely situated upon an island in the stream of the Nerbudda. It probably dates from the time of Alumgheer.

At Bagra, on the Towa river, is a little fortress of the Rajah who formerly ruled part of the valley below the spur of the Sautpooras, on which the fort stands, and who seems to have been extinguished by the earlier Mahratta invasions.

Temple of Tilohisendur

The only thing in the valley which can boast any real antiquity, is the rock cut temple of Tilohisendur, at the foot of the Sautpooras, about 25 miles south-west of Hoshungabad. It is a simple

cave, though not of very elegant construction compared with the plans given in "Fergusson's rock cut temples," and probably it is of later date. It now is sacred to Mahadeo; and a cave or fissure close by is said to communicate with the Jumladweep cave on or near Puchmurree.

There are some tokens that the Jain religion, which we know to have attained its climax of influence in Malwa about 1150—1200 A. D., extended to this valley also. Three Jain statues were found at Hursood, bearing inscriptions of the years 1209, 1214 and 1222, A. D. They are now in the Nagpore Museum.

HOSHANGABAD.

Jain religion.

MUNGUNGA-
BAD.

APPENDIX A.

Register of thermometrical observations.

DATES.	AT AMUR-KUNTUK 1838, A. D.		AT PUCHMURREE OF THE MAHADEO HILLS, 1839, A. D.				Remarks.
	6 a. m.	Noon.	Morn- ing.	After- noon.	Sunset.		
1st May.	70°	88°					
2nd "	64	89					
3rd "	74	90					
4th "	78	91					
5th "	78	94	* Not taken.				
6th "	75	86					
7th "	71	84					
8th "	68	79					
9th "	66	82					
10th "	62	84					
11th "	72	88	83	89	87		This taken when ascend- ing ; tatties used below here dispensed with ; cloudy with high wind. Westerly wind.
12th "	72	88	78	86½	88		
13th "	62	89	80	86	88		
14th "	72	91	77	93	88		
15th "	75	86	76	93	90		
16th "	76	87	78	91	84		
17th "	76	89	76	90	77		
18th "	76	83	76	92	86		
19th "	75	86	78	93	89		
20th "	71	89	79	95	90½		
21st "	79	81	76	91	85		
22nd "	80	92	74	88	84		
23rd "	75	94	72	85	81½		
24th "	78	93	72	87	78		
25th "	68	94	74	87	76		
26th "	68	94	73	80	75		
27th "	74	95	71	81	81		
28th "	76	93	72	87	85		
29th "	82	93	77	88	87		
30th "	77	91	73	88	84		
31st "	78	90	76	85	80		
1st June.	78	89	70	85	80		
2nd "	78	89	71	84	78		
3rd "	80	92					
4th "	81	95					
5th "	80	88					
6th "	76	86	Not taken.				
7th "	76	85					
8th "	82	93					
9th "	81	92					

* Note.—This table gives the following average for the month of May.
 Anurkuntuk 73° and 83°, Puchmurree 76°, 83 and 84.
 But as neither the highest nor the lowest range during the day has been observed it is difficult to effect a comparison.
 2nd Note.—It may be generally gathered from this table that the temperature of these places in the hot months from 12 to 15 below Jubbipore.

Comparative table of temperature between Puchmurree and the plains.

HOSHUNGA-
BAD.

Month.	Date.	DAWN.		2 P. M.		DUSK.		9. P. M.		Remarks.
		Puchmurree.	Below the Hill.							
1861.										
April.	15th	78	80	88	101	84	88	82	80	
"	16th	74	76	89	98	84	92	82	85	
"	17th	64	68	88	98	83	88	80	86	
"	18th	74	74	88	98	82	88	78	85	
"	19th	72	76	89	101	82	90	78	80	
"	20th	75	71	89	103	82	85	78	76	
"	21st	75	64	93	104	82	91	80	90	
"	22nd	64	66	94	104	84	88	82	78	
"	23rd	77	65	93	104	86	86	84	77	
"	25th	76	70	94	105	97	90	86	80	
"	26th	77	70	93	107	86	95	85	88	
"	27th	76	72	93	107	86	88	85	84	
"	30th	80	80	92	104	86	94	86	92	
May.	1st	76	71	94	104	86	92	84	88	
"	2nd	78	70	94	105	86	99	85	98	
"	3rd	77	81	93	105	86	98	84	95	
"	4th	76	75	92	103	85	96	84	95	
"	5th	76	82	92	103	85	94	84	90	
"	6th	76	79	91	102	85	94	83	80	
"	7th	76	82	90	103	84	95	80	90	
"	8th	76	84	91	104	85	94	83	91	
"	9th	77	82	92	103	85	95	84	90	
"	10th	77	78	93	104	86	92	84	84	
"	11th	76	73	93	104	87	92	85	85	
"	12th	79	74	93	104	96	94	82	85	

Instruments compared and allowance made for difference: both instruments were kept as far as possible in similar situations—exposed to the open air but protected from glare.

Those taken by me below the hill were at my tent in various places in the valley of the Denwa and Towah. The first four days were cloudy when I was in the plains. The thermometer at Puchmurree was kept by Mr. Blackwell, Agent to the Nerbudda Coal Company, that below the ghat by myself.

JUBBULPORE.**Boundaries.****Physical features.
Hills.**

Jubbulpore is one of the largest and most populous districts in the Central Provinces. It is bounded on the north by Punnah and Myhere; on the east by Rewah; on the south by Mundla, Seonee and Narsingpore; and on the west by Dumoh. It lies between latitude $22^{\circ} 40'$ and $24^{\circ} 8'$ north, and between $81^{\circ} 6'$ and $79^{\circ} 35'$ east longitude; and contains an area of 4,397 square miles. The principal ranges of hills are the Bhaner,[†] the Kymore,* and the Bhitreegurh. The Bhaner hills have by some been considered to commence in Bhopal, opposite to Hoshungabad. Others again suppose the Bhaner range to begin at Sakulghat, overlooking the Nerbudda, and that the hills to the west are portions of the great Vindhyan chain. It is not necessary to decide that point here. It is sufficient to observe that these hills undoubtedly enter the Jubbulpore district in the neighbourhood of Heerapore, and form the northern boundary of the valley of the Nerbudda, and its affluent, the Hirun. They are composed of sandstone horizontally stratified. The highest peak of the Bhaner hills is Kaloomber. It is 2,544 feet above the level of the sea. The Kymore range runs nearly parallel to the Bhaner hills and in close propinquity. The sandstone of which they are composed is said to be of a harder and denser texture than that of the Bhaner hills; and whereas the stratification of the latter is horizontal, that of the former is perpendicular. The picturesque valley of Myhere is formed by these two ranges, which bound on either side the Great Northern road through the Myhere valley. Near Myhere, the Kymore range bends more to the east, and compels the river Soane to a similar course. The peaks of the Kymore range vary in height. In the Jubbulpore district they never exceed a height of 2,300 feet above the level of the sea, or 600 feet above the plain. To the south of the Nerbudda, the Burgee pergunnah is broken up by spurs of the Gondwara range of hills, through a gorge of which that river forces itself at Bheraghat. The Bhitreegurh hills divide the Koombee pergunnah, and run generally from south-west to north. There are also detached groups of hills, as the Suttee Pahar near Sleemanabad, the Bijooa hills in the Sehora tehsil, the Nagur hills which form a portion of the boundary between the Jubbulpore and Mundla districts, and a low range called the Kynjooa in Bijiragogurh.

General description.

The country is well watered; there is one large plain of rich soil irrigated by the Nerbudda, the Pareyt, and the Hirun. This plain extends from Sehora on the north to Bhera and Lameta ghats on the south, from Koombhee on the east to Sakul (spelt Sankul in our maps), on the west, where the Hirun unites with the Nerbudda. It is surrounded by spurs of the Gondwara range on the south, by the Bhaner and Kymore hills on the north and west, and by the Bhitreegurh hills on the east. In these several directions the country is finely diversified by hills, rising sometimes nearly to 1,000 feet above the

* More properly Bhandere.

† More properly Kaimur.

plain, and covered with forest or brushwood. Exterior to the plain the country is well supplied with hill and dale, forests and rushing streams, and affords rich and extensive views. The scenery on the great plain of the district possesses features of more than ordinary interest, for the hills are nowhere removed entirely from view, and their ruggedness is finely contrasted with the smiling fertility of the alluvial soil of the Nerbudda valley.

Mr. Medlicott in his paper on the geological structure of the central portion of the Nerbudda district remarks that "rocks of the granitic type, although often seen at the surface, do not occupy large areas in this portion of Central India;" the largest of the areas "is found near Jubbulpore, where the granite forms a range of low hills, running from Lametaghāt on the Nerbudda in a north-east direction." Near "where the old town of Gurha stands, the hilly area of granite is about two miles wide, and a building, now in ruins, called the Mud-dun Mahall (*q. v.*) stands on the highest part of the range."

The rocks of the Jubbulpore district are sandstone of the Vindhyan, Upper Damooda, and Lameta groups. A narrow slip of the Upper Damooda series extends from the Mahanuddy to Jubbulpore, and fossils have been found in several localities. These are also metamorphic rocks, containing limestone, in parts of Sleemanabad, and in the neighbourhood of Punagurh and Gosulpore; granite (as has been seen in the neighbourhood of Jubbulpore); and trap, tabular or overflowing, extending towards Mundla. This "may be considered as forming a continuation of the Great Deccan trap, described in 1833, by Colonel Sykes in the transactions of the Geological Society of London".

Near Bheraghat (*q. v.*) about 9 miles to the south-west of Jubbulpore, are white limestone rocks. These rocks are 120 feet high, and the limestone is "pure and beautifully crystallized." The Nerbudda forces its way through these rocks, which often seem almost to meet overhead. But a description will be found under the proper heading.

Coal is found at Ramghat, Lametaghāt, Bheraghat, and near Singapoor on the Mahanuddy river. There it is 18 inches thick "and is said to be poor and unworkable." In the memoirs of the Geological Survey of India, Vol. II, Part II, page 111, it is said "in 1844-46 Mr. Rammell, an accomplished Engineer connected with Messrs. Hunt &c. Co. of Mirzapore, sunk pits and shafts in the Lametaghāt shale," but found the coal useless, and so abandoned the work.

Coal mines.

Mr. Berkley, in his report on the Nerbudda river and valley, says that there are five iron mines within 21 miles of Jubbulpore. The iron mines that are known to exist in this district are those of Simra, Gogri, and Bolia, situated within a distance of 20 miles to the south-west of Jubbulpore, Agaria, Dubwara, Jowttee, near Mujhgawa, Punagurh and Lameta; altogether there are more than one hundred localities where iron ore is extracted and worked by native processes. The iron ores of the Nerbudda valley have been classified as follows:—

Iron

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formation.

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- 1.—The detrital ores.
- 2.—The iron clay sands of the Damooda and Mahadewa sandstone, sometimes, though rarely, smelted.
- 3.—The ores extracted from the beds of the crystalline rocks, which are inter-stratified with the quartzite.
- 4.—The ores which are accumulated along fault lines.

Black iron
sand.

To this last class, the mines of Dubwara, Agaria, and Jowtee belong, "as well as those of Tendookhera. They are by far the most productive mines. The ore is chemically hydrous peroxide." No. 3 is that next in importance commercially, and includes Gungye, Lameta, Punagurh, and other mines. Near any and all of the above mines limestone is believed to be abundantly obtainable. Perhaps the most important iron mines occur in the Koombhee pergannah, about 20 or 30 miles to the north-east of Jubbulpore. There a black iron sand is quarried. It is an article of extensive traffic. It is known by the name of "Dhao," and having been smelted, is made up into all kinds of utensils at Punagurh. Formerly, and it is believed at the present time, this iron-ore was smelted at Baghraj. The iron trade of the Jubbulpore district is considerable. But it would be fallacious to quote the returns here, unless iron imported for railway purposes could be separated from that produced from native ore.

Soil.

The soil of the Jubbulpore district is, in the Nerbudda valley, and with that we are principally concerned, composed of an extensive series of beds of an alluvial character, in many places overlaid with "regur." This black soil extends from the Mundla district to Jubbulpore. At Jubbulpore, where the cantonment is built, the soil is sandy, and water is found very near the surface. Thus the roads of this station are probably superior to those of any other in the Central Provinces. There is also a freshness and greenness even in the hot season which is not observable in stations situated on basaltic soil. To the north-east, north and west, opens out the plain of the Nerbudda and Hirun, which we have already described. It includes the pergannahs of Gurha, Seohra, and some portion of Koonibhee. In some places the soil of this plain is "black soil," whilst in others there is a thick deposit of pale, brownish-coloured alluvium; and again in other localities the "regur" has been entirely removed by causes now in action, and its place is occupied by deposits of silt brought down by the Nerbudda. This silt is said to be highly productive. Beyond the limits of the pergannahs named above, the soil is sandy, and all the small ranges of hills are of sandstone.

Watersheds

There are two principal watersheds in the district. The one is a curved irregular line, having a general north-easterly and south-westerly direction, and lies to the north of the Bhaner and Kynmore ranges by which it is formed. Rivers to the north of this watershed are affluents of the Jumna. The second commences in the Bhiteegurh range of hills, and crossing the Great Northern road between Sleemanabad and Sehora passes to the north of the latter place. In this watershed the Kutnee (sometimes called Kutna) river takes its rise, and after a circuitous course crosses the Great Northern road near Moorwara, and falls into the Mahanuddy, an affluent of the Soane, which debouches into the

* "regur" is the name given to blacksoil.

Ganges, and finally unites its waters with the Bay of Bengal. Thus travellers from Jubbulpore to Mirzapore pass over the great watershed between the Gulf of Cambay and the Bay of Bengal. Water falling to the north and east of them pours into affluents either of the Ganges or Jumna, whilst that shed to the south or west unites with the rapid stream of the Nerbudda.

**JUBBUL-
PORE.****Rivers.**

The principal rivers are—

1.—The Mahanuddy which, rising in the Mundla district, pursues a generally northerly course, till in Bijiragogurh district, it bends to the east and discharges itself into the Soane.

2.—The Gooraya, between Jubbulpore and Dumoh.

3.—The Putna river, on the boundary of Punnah and Jubbulpore.

4.—The Hirun, which flows into the Nerbudda at Sakar.

5.—The Nerbudda, which has a devious course through this district of about 70 miles, from its entrance at Singae in Burgee, to its departure at Sakul.

A description of the above rivers will be found under their appropriate headings.

The affluents of the Mahanuddy are the Sakun river, a very small portion of whose course lies in the Jubbulpore district, the Kutna, and other smaller streams. The principal affluents of the Hirun are the Khair, the Belowra, and the Lambhera, the whole of whose course is within the Jubbulpore district. The above join the Hirun on the right bank of that river, whilst the Pareyt is the principal contributary on the left bank.

Affluents.

On the right bank of the Nerbudda we have the Gour, and on the left bank the Teemur. The scenery on some of these rivers, and especially on the Nerbudda, is romantic in the extreme.

There are several fine tanks, as the Hunoomân Tal at Jubbulpore, and a large tank, called Macleod-saugor, at Piplide, on the road to Mirzapore. The Piplide tank was made during a time of great scarcity by Sir D. F. Macleod (now Lieut-Governor of the Punjab). He is still affectionately remembered by the people.

Tanks.

The climate of this district is salubrious. The rain-fall was in 1865-66, 47·9 inches, which is less than that registered in any other district of this division. The temperature of the Jubbulpore district is extremely moderate. In the cold weather the thermometer on the ground in the neighbourhood of Kundum has been recorded as low as 26° Fah. There are only two months of hot weather. It is only just before the rains that great heat is experienced. The rains commence about the 10th June, and last until 20th September. The prevailing winds are westerly. In the rains the winds vary a few points to the south, and in the hot weather as much to the north. The coldest wind is from the north and north-east; westerly winds in the cold weather usually bring clouds and increased temperature. A south-east wind

Climate.

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is rather uncommon, north-westerly winds are rare. Hail-storms occur in February and March, and sometimes occasion great damage to the rubbee crops. Annexed is a register of the thermometer kept for a single year by the late Dr. Spilsbury, from whose records the above account of the climate is taken. It will be observed that the annual average temperature has not varied much since 1840, when the register was kept.

	Months.	Coldest day.	Hottest day.	Medium.	REMARKS.
January	{ minimum.	40	61	50½	
	{ maximum.	67	83	75	
February	{ minimum.	40	58	40	
	{ maximum.	68	89	78½	
March	{ minimum.	52	72	62	
	{ maximum.	72	100	86	
April	{ minimum.	58	82	70	
	{ maximum.	91	105	88	
May	{ minimum.	76	88	82	
	{ maximum.	99	110	104½	
June	{ minimum.	72	90	81	
	{ maximum.	74	107	90½	
July	{ minimum.	72	76	74	
	{ maximum.	77	90	83½	
August	{ minimum.	71	77	74	
	{ maximum.	79	92	85½	
September	{ minimum.	71	76	73½	
	{ maximum.	82	93	87½	
October	{ minimum.	54	75	84½	
	{ maximum.	78	92	85	
November	{ minimum.	42	63½	52½	
	{ maximum.	77	84	80½	
December	{ minimum.	39	39	48	
	{ maximum.	68	80	74	
Average minimum.		67½	Average maximum.	83½	

The principal complaints are fevers and dysentery. Fevers prevail from the setting in of the rains to the end of November. Perhaps the Jubbulpore district may be considered as the most salubrious in the Central Provinces. The only epidemics are cholera, influenza, and small-pox. Cholera though it prevails sometimes in the towns, never it is believed, appears in cantonments.

Forests. The country is well wooded, and the hills are covered with forests. Formerly, and to a certain extent even now, these forests suffered great

loss from the annual burnings by the hill tribes and others, of the grass of the previous year's growth. In many places a spectator might pitch his tent in an amphitheatre of hills, enjoy the beautiful scenery by day, and as night advanced, watch the hills glowing with fire. It is believed that these fires are sometimes caused accidentally. The forest department use every effort to prevent these extensive burnings. Fires do not usually kill outright, but sear the bark of the young teak tree. The unreserved forest* tracts belong to Government, except where any tract has been leased. The most useful kinds of indigenous timber are the—

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ENGLISH OR NATIVE NAME.	BOTANICAL NAME.
Teak	<i>Tectona Grandis.</i>
Saj	<i>Pentaptera Tomentosa</i>
Kowa	<i>Termenalia Arjuna</i>
Hurdoo	<i>Nauclea Cordifolia</i>
Kem	<i>Nauclea parvifolia</i>
Tendo	<i>Dyospyrus melanoxylon</i>
Babool	<i>Acacia Arabica</i>
Bamboo	<i>Bambusa</i>

The mhowa, chironjea, jammu, guava, mangoe, ber, mulberry and tamarind trees abound. Amongst the ornamental trees, we may notice the peepul (*Ficus religiosa*) the banyan (*Ficus indica*) the kuchnar (*Bauhinia variegata*). Besides the ordinary Indian fruits, such as plantains, and Cape gooseberries, peaches, and pineapples, strawberries will grow, as also very excellent potatoes and other garden produce.

There are no reserved forest tracts in this district. But arrangements have been made to reserve a portion of the forests of Bijirago-gurh, in the south-east of which district the great Sal belt of the Central Provinces begins.

The mineral productions are coal and iron, as has already been noted.

Minerals.

The limestone of the hills at Bheraghat is celebrated; and at Moor-wara is said to exist a limestone suited for "lithographic purposes." The limestone of the marble rocks is adolomite; and sandstone of every variety abounds. Clay suitable for bricks, is found everywhere, and for pottery in some parts. There is a rich fossil bone bed at Narrainpore. Roofing slate is found near Sehora at Kuân, about 30 miles north of Jubbulpore. The collection of agates in the Nagpore Museum from this district is worthy of remark. The alluvial deposits of the Ner-budda valley afford numerous remains of both extinct and living types of mammalia.

Limestone.
clay.

* An abstract of the forest trees appears in the account of the Dumoh district.

**JUBBUL
FOREST**
**Vegetable
products.**

The forests produce lac and the tussa moth, from the cocoon of whose worm a valuable silk is manufactured. Lac grows principally on the ber, peepul, pakur and kosum. There are also gum-bearing trees; their gums are used in preparing sweetmeats, and some are said to possess medicinal properties. The timber trees and fruit trees of the forest we have already mentioned. Besides these fruits and products already enumerated we may mention—

- 1.—Menur or menphul, eaten as a vegetable when green; when dry used as a medicine.
- 2.—Honey and wax.
- 3.—Roots of various kinds, as keoloo khund, bychundie, dardi khund, and glutaloo.
- 4.—Tikhur, or the wild arrowroot.
- 5.—The Kujoor or date palm used in making mats and brooms.
- 6.—The hurra dhowrie, and buhera, used as dyes.
- 7.—The barks of the reenja, babool and saj are used for tanning.

Corn is grown from the "bearded wheat," known as "daood shukur," sugar, pan (betel) maize, tobacco, red pepper, linseed, sesame, safflower, sirsun, and the castor oil plant, bajra, jowar, peas, gram, various kinds of dal and rice, are all produced.

The table given below shows the price of the staple articles of food &c. during April 1866 :—

	Wheat.	Gram.	Jowaree.	Dal (toor).	Dal (oord).	Dal (moong).	Dal (Mussoor).	Rice, 1st sort.	Sugar, 1st sort.	Linseed oil.	Cotton.	Ghee.
Number of seers per rupee.	15	16	..	12	41	12	14	7	2½	3½	1	1½

As a contrast with the above price of wheat it may be mentioned that in the previous year 21 seers were procurable for the rupee, and in 1851 no less than 54 seers were sold for the rupee.

The vegetable productions which may be termed spices, are the coriander seed, cummin, aniseed, ginger, mustard, and turmeric.

Animals. The domestic animals are sheep, horses, goats: whilst the tiger, neelghai, deer of various kinds, wild boars, bears, wolves, hyenas,

jackals, and leopards, are common enough in their wild state. We have also the bustard, florican, wild goose, duck, widgeon, teal, peacock, partridge, quail, snipe, ortolan; and Sir D. F. Macleod mentions a bird of beautiful plumage near Jubbulpore "resembling the bird of Paradise." In the rivers, Mâh-sîr and other fish abound.

The chief manufactures are iron, cotton cloth, and brass utensils of various kinds. The seat of the iron manufacture is Punagurh. At Kuttunghee and Burela, gun-barrels used to be made. Tents and carpets are also made, both in the School of Industry and by private persons. At Jabeera knives are manufactured; and there are in the district many excellent workers in leather.

There are some fairs in this district, but they are not of any great importance, the principal fair is that of Bheraghât (*q. v.*)

The district of Jubbulpore is comprised within the Commissionership or Division of that name, which Division also includes the districts of Seoncee, Mundla, Dumoh, and Saugor; the district of Jubbulpore is governed by a Deputy Commissioner, who is assisted by two Assistant, and three Extra-Assistant Commissioners. For an account of Jubbulpore and of the administration and ministerial officers settled there, see the town of that name.

For revenue and police purposes the district is divided into four Tehseels.

(1.)—The Jubbulpore Tehseel includes the pergunnahs of Kuttunghee, Patun, Gurha and Burgee.

(2.)—The Sehora Tehseel, to the north of Jubbulpore, and comprising the centre division, includes Sehora, Sonepore, and Punagurh.

(3.)—Sleemnabad is the northern Tehseel, and consists of the pergunnahs of Bilheri and Koombhee.

(4.)—Bijiragogurh is the north-east Tehseel; it contains about 750 square miles. This Tehseel has only recently been added to the Central Provinces.

The revenue amounts to Rs. 6,95,634; of which Rs. 6,44,368 are imperial, and Rs. 51,566, are local. The collections from Octroi amounted in 1864-65 to Rs. 27,260, of which Rs. 25,290 were contributed by the town of Jubbulpore alone. The educational cess amounted to Rs. 10,803, the road cess to the same, and the district postal cess to Rs. 2,700. The land revenue was (inclusive of Bijiragogurh) Rs. 5,40,174, which is a tax of nearly 12 annas per acre on the cultivated area. The settlement, has been completed, and is for 30 years.

JUBBUL-
PORE.

Manufactures

Fairs.

Tehseels.

Revenue.

Settlement.

Tenures.

Of the tenures there is not much to say.

Village communities, such as those which are found in North-Western India, have not existed of late years in the Central Provinces. In the Jubbulpore district, and generally in the Saugor and Nerbudda

**JUBBUL-
PORE.**

territories, they probably once existed.* But the constant struggles between Mahrattas, Gonds and Mahomedans, and finally the widespread havoc of the Pindarries, caused the depopulation of villages. In times of peace people returned by twos and threes to their houses; men of wealth and influence undertook to restore ruined villages, and to re-settle husbandmen in deserted fields. Thus farmers and tenantry were gradually and successively substituted for the village communities of the North-West. These farmers have been termed malgoozars. By the common law and ancient custom of the country, all land, whether waste or cultivated, belonged to Government, and was leased out for long or short periods to these farmers called malgoozars.† By the terms of such leases or settlements the people had no certain tenure, nor could the Malgoozars sell, transfer or inherit, nor were they legally entitled to any improvement effected in the land by an outlay of capital. But by the present Settlement, which is for thirty years, the State has waived its proprietary rights in favour of landholders as regards all cultivated and occupied land, and also respecting in addition a certain quantity of waste. They have been declared the absolute proprietors of all such land; but are subject to the payment of a land-tax. They have thus an assurance that they will always reap the fruits of their capital and their industry.

Nor have the rights of the tenants and occupiers of the soil been disregarded. Their rights have been carefully recorded. In some cases occupiers have been recognized proprietors of the plots they hold. In all cases hereditary cultivators have been secured the full enjoyment of their holdings so long as they perform their engagements. By the Settlement for thirty years the State will not be a loser. Oobaree and Maafee tenures have undergone revision, and some have been resumed. Though the land assessment is comparatively light, yet it renders every branch of revenue highly elastic, invites the outlay of capital, and thus improves the productiveness of the soil. By such a Settlement cultivators are attracted to a thinly populated country; waste lands are sold or leased; and fresh lands reclaimed from the forest are brought under cultivation, and contribute their share to the Government revenue.

**Settlement
statistics.**

Of the total area of the three Tehseeles of Jubbulpore, Sehora, and Sleemanabad, 738,347 acres are under cultivation, and of this not one-60th part is irrigated. The barren waste, amounts to 886,221 acres. The remainder of the land is either fallow, or fit for cultivation. About one-fifth of the cultivated area is cultivated by proprietors, two-fifths by hereditary cultivators, and the remainder by tenants-at-will. The number of villages in the Jubbulpore, Sehora and Sleemanabad tehsils is 2,435, of houses 107,647, of wells in use 5,515, and of ploughs 61,037.

* *Vide*.—First Administration Report of the Central Provinces.

+ *Vide*.—Chief Commissioner's reply to Major Pearson's first Report for 1865-66.—Though the remarks are there intended to show that the Government has rights in waste as well as cultivated lands; yet they aptly describe the origin of the Malgozaree system, and point to its improvement under the recent Settlement.

The population of the above Tehseels amounts to 538,358 or about 148 per square mile. The non-agriculturists exceed the agriculturists by about 35,000. If we include Bijiragogurh the population will amount to 620,201 or only about 128 per square mile. The land revenue of the last mentioned tract may be estimated in round numbers at 50,000 rupees. The trade, as will have been seen from the list of productions, is of considerable importance. In 1864-65 the imports through Mirzapore and from Central India amounted to 119,596 maunds, and were valued at 44,65,806 rupees. Whilst the exports to the above localities were maunds 144,645, valued at 20,87,555 rupees. The export of manufactured lac dye from Jubbulpore during 1854-55 amounted to 4,012 maunds, which may be valued at one lakh and a half of rupees. Further trade statistics will be found in the Minute on the trade and resources of the Central Provinces for 1864-65 by Mr. R. Temple, c. s. Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces.

The people are composed for the most part of Gonds, Gond Rajpoots, Lodhees, Powars, Koormees, Kahars, Dhoomers, Dhers, and Chumars. There are also Brahmins, both from the Maharashtra and from Muttra, Kayuths from Ferukhabad, and Mussulmans. There are now no Gonds or other chiefs of any importance, but there are some Lodhees, as at Tejghur, who once possessed a local celebrity. Under the Mahratta rule all Kahars and Chumars were required to pay a portion of their earnings to the State; and Koormees and Lodhees were not allowed to marry a second time without paying a fine (*vide Proceedings of the local Provisional Government in 1818*). The Gonds were probably the indigenous inhabitants of Jubbulpore. The Lodhees and Kayuths appear to have settled in Jubbulpore when Bukht Boolund II. was Rajah of Deogurh, that is in the time of Aurungzeeb. Concerning this immigration Sir R. Jenkins remarks:—"He employed indiscriminately Mussulmans and Hindoos of ability. Industrious settlers from all quarters were attracted to Gondwana; many towns and villages were founded; and agriculture, manufactures, and even commerce, made considerable advances." He appears to have made considerable conquests from Mundla; and although Jubbulpore never formed part of his kingdom yet we may conclude that the Lodhees first settled in the district about the time of his reign.

The language spoken is a dialect of the Hindoo; Urdu is commonly understood, and that is the language of the Courts. The Hindoo dialect is commonly known as the Baghela. Its peculiarities that particularly attract the attention of a stranger from Northern India are the elision of nearly all short vowels, and the substitution of ख for ख and ख for ख.

A railway will shortly connect Jubbulpore with Mirzapore on the north, and with Bombay, *via* Nursingore and Hoshungabad, on the west. The railway crosses the Nerbudda near Jhansighat. The viaduct is 371 yards long, and its cost will amount to about £120,000. The bed of the river is rock. On the whole, there are 100 miles of railway

JUBBUL
PORE.

Population.

Trade.

Castes.

Indigenous
inhabitants.

Language.

Railway.

**JUBBUL-
PORE**

in this district. There is an excellent road to Mirzapore, which is one long avenue of trees, and also to Seonee on the south. These two lines are bridged and metalled. There are fair weather roads to Saugor and to Nursingpore, a track to Mundla, and a partially made road to Shahpoora in the east, and to Putun in the west. These are all the roads of any importance.

Stages. The stages on the Mirzapore or great northern road are as follows:—

Punagurh	...	9 miles from Jubbulpore.
Gosulpore	...	18 $\frac{3}{4}$ Dak Bungalow and Serai.
Schora	27	" Serai and rest-house.
Sleemanabad	40	" do.
Piplode	50	"
Moorwara	60	Dak bungalow and serai.

The stages on the Saugor road are:—

Bail Kharoo,	10 miles.
Kuttunghee,	11 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
Singrampoore,	8 $\frac{1}{2}$ Dak bungalow.
Jubeera,	9 "

**Nursingpore
road.**

The stages on the Nursingpore road are:—

Meergunge 9 miles, and Shahpore 4 miles; beyond is Jhansighat on the Nerbudda.

Seonee road.

The first halting place is at Nigree, which is about ten miles from Jubbulpore on the south side of the Nerbudda.

The next is at Sookree, where supplies are procurable. This place is 10 miles from the former halting place. The road after leaving Sookree enters the Seonee district before the next encamping ground is reached.

Mundla road.

On the Mundla road the first station is at Mohgoan, 8 miles from Jubbulpore. Here supplies are procurable. The second encamping ground is at Dunowlee, 14 miles from the former station. At Narainunge, nearly 11 miles from Dunowlee, a Dak bungalow is about to be built. As far as this place, the road is good, but hilly and stony in places, and it passes through thick scrub jungle. The road all the way to Mundla is practicable for lightly laden small country carts.

Education.

Education has of late years made considerable progress. There were in April 1866, 81 Government schools, attended by 2,635 scholars; and 68 indigenous schools, attended by 586 scholars. There are besides two large Mission Schools at Jubbulpore (*q. v.*) attended by 287 pupils. Of the scholars enumerated above 59 are girls.

Early history.

The early history of Jubbulpore is very obscure. The aboriginal inhabitants were undoubtedly Gonds. It was probably overrun by the Aryan race, as were the other districts south of the Nerbudda, when the Gonds were partially dispossessed of their dominions. The conquerors were undoubtedly Brahmins, but subsequently were converted to Budhism, probably about the 17th year of the reign of Asokha, A. C. 246.

JUBBUL-
PORE.

That form of religion seems to have prevailed in Bhopal, Saugor and the neighbouring state of Bundelkund. But at this early period much of Jubbulpore was covered with forest. For Abul Fazul mentions that even in the 16th century wild elephants abounded in the neighbourhood. The plains and valleys then were inhabited in the 3rd century B. C. by the descendants of Aryans, and the Gonds were driven to the hills. But subsequently there was a religious movement that affected the whole of Maharashtra and probably the districts north of the Nerbudda. The Brahmins asserted their power, and Hinduism was finally triumphant over Buddhism. This could not have been effected without serious convulsions, and it was probably at that time the Gonds recovered their power.

The Gond kingdoms were four in number, and the most powerful of them was the Chief of Gurrah Mundla, who ruled over Jubbulpore and some of the neighbouring districts.

The Raj Gond Kingdom.

The last of the purely Gond Chiefs was Daroo Sah, who conferred the kingdom and his daughter in marriage on Jadoo Rao, a Rajpoot, who is said to have come from Khandaish. This was about the year A. D. 154. The descendants of this man are said to have ruled over a greater or less extent of country for 1575 years, during which time the seat of Government was at Gurha, where it remained during the reign of 47 princes, or for 1330 years,—at Singorgurh for 77 years under four rulers, at Chowragurh, in the Nursingpore district, for 50 years. The kingdom was then usurped by the Boondelas at the instigation and with the permission of Jehangeer. On the expulsion of the Boondelas the capital was removed to Ramnugger, and finally after some 46 years to Mundla.

Subsequently the kingdom was subverted by the Mahrattas. The capital of the tributary Chieftains remained at Mundla until 1784-85, when Rughonath Rao of Saugor deposed the last of the Gond Rajpoot rulers.

The country never seems to have been actually administered by Mahomedans, but the Gond Rajpoot Chiefs were rendered tributary. It is said that Singram Sing, the son of Urjoon Sing, and the 48th in descent from Jadoo Rao, annexed both Saugor and Bhopal to his dominions. The dispossessed Chieftains complained to the Emperor of Delhi, Akhbar Shah, who marched an army to Singampore. A portion of this army, it is alleged, was defeated by Singram Sing, and the royal umbrella is reported to have fallen into the hands of the conqueror. But Urjoon Sing, the father of Singram Sing, hastened to make his peace with Akhbar, who pleased at his submission bestowed upon his son the title of "Shah." The Gond Rajpoot Chief named the place where the battle was fought Singampore, and a fortress built in commemoration of the victory was called Singorgurh. The palace or fort of Muddun Mahall was built by Muddun Sing, the 34th in descent from Jadoo Rao, about A. D. 1100. We next hear of the Mahomedans in connection with the famous Rance Doorgawuthee, who bestowed the title of "Bajpacee" upon the family of Surhai Pattuck, whose de-

**Gond Rajpoots
tributary to
the Emperors
of Delhi.**

**Muddun
Mahall.**

**JUBBUL-
PORE.**

**Singorgurh
taken by the
Mahomedans.**

**Capture of
Mundla by the
Peishwa.**

**The Saugor
Mahrattas
take Jubbulpore.
The Bhonslahs
acquire Jubbulpore.**

**The British
acquire Jubbulpore.**

**Causes that
led to the ac-
quisition of
the Saugor and
Nerbudda ter-
ritories.**

**Nature of the
Mahratta Go-
vernment.**

scendants still survive. This Doorgawuthee is fabled to have possessed a white elephant, which is said to have been coveted by the then Emperor of Delhi. But however that may be, it is tolerably well ascertained that for some reason the Emperor made war on Doorgawuthee and that Singorgurh suffered a siege of 9 months, when it was evacuated. This occurred in 1567. The tragic fate of Doorgawuthee is known to all. In 1737 Mundla was taken and sacked by the Peishwa. In commemoration of this victory one of the gates of Mundla was termed the Futteh Derwaza. The Raj Gond Chiefs of Gurrah Mundla then became tributary, and were ordered to pay a tribute of 4 lakhs of rupees (£40,000). In 1776-79 Jubbulpore fell into the hands of the Saugor Mahratta, Rughonath Rao, and was by him given to Rughojee Bhonslah in 1796, in return for the help afforded to the Saugor Rajah against Meer Khan, the Pindarree chief. Jubbulpore was ruled by the representative of the Bhonslah family until 1817, when it was occupied by the British after an engagement at Jubbulpore on the *19th December. The country was actually ceded to the British by treaty with the Peishwa Bajee Rao, dated 13th June 1817. The events of the 26th and 27th November 1817 at Nagpore were the immediate cause of the loss of the Nerbudda districts to the Rajah of Berar.

These events have been thus epitomised. "Jubbulpore and the other districts on the Nerbudda had belonged to the Rajah of Berar, with whom, as with the other Mahratta powers, our relations at this time were in a very critical state. The consummate tact, and ability of Mr. Jenkins, the Resident, failed to induce the Rajah to continue on terms of amity. A treacherous attack was made upon the very small body of troops at Nagpore, which, with the Resident's escort, took post on the hill of Seetabuldee, and this handful of men repelled the attacks of an overwhelming force of 20,000 men supported by 35 guns." Fitzgerald's charge at the head of three troops of the 6th Bengal Cavalry and a Native officer and 25 troopers of the Madras body-guard, was a feat scarcely surpassed by the brilliant exploit of "the gallant 600 at Balac-lava". Immediately after the occupation of Jubbulpore a provisional government was formed. The President of the government was Major O'Brien. And here it may be useful to enquire into the real nature of the Mahratta government. The proceedings of the Provisional Government throw some light upon this subject. Immediately after their assumption of office, they appointed Rughonath Rao, Rajah of Inglea, acting Soobahdar. That Officer presented an urzee, asking whether certain rules and regulations enforced by the Mahrattas should be continued. Amongst these rules we observe the following:—

- 1.—All widows to be sold, and the purchase money to be paid into the treasury.
- 2.—All persons receiving any sum through an order or the interference or interposition of any person in office or authority, to pay one-fourth of the sum recovered to the State.
- 3.—Any person selling his daughter, to pay one-fourth of the purchase money to the State.

* NOTE.—Vide Aitchison's treaties, Vol. III. page 84.

4.—The one-fourth of the purchase money of all houses to be paid into the treasury.

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PORE.

These rules at the time of the British assumption of authority were by no means obsolete. At a meeting of the same Provisional Government we find the Government ordering the release of a woman, by name "Poorseah, who was sold by auction a few days ago for 17 rupees."

Slavery undoubtedly existed in a certain modified form under the Mahrattas.

It is reported commonly amongst the people of Jubbulpore that under the Gond rule human sacrifices were not unknown, and there are traditions to the effect that such human sacrifices were common on the death of any chieftain of note.

Human sa-
crifice.

"When the Provisional Government was abolished, the Saugor and Nerbudda territories were for a time governed by a Commissioner, who was subject to the Resident at Nagpore. Subsequently the districts were separated from the Nagpore Agency, and in 1843 Lord Ellenborough recast the above system of administration in the Saugor and Nerbudda territories. The superintendence of the departments of Civil and Criminal judicature was separated from that of revenue and police. The latter was entrusted to the Commissioner, while a Civil and Sessions judge was appointed, and 16 native Courts of primary venue. The territories were divided into two divisions, each of which was placed under the charge of a Principal Sudder Ameen. The system here sketched lasted until 2nd November 1861, when the Saugor and Nerbudda territories formed part of the Central Provinces, and were placed under the control of a Chief Commissioner, resident at Nagpore. Since that time the progress of the Provinces in wealth, material prosperity and education, has been rapid.

Appointment
of a Commis-
sioner.Territory
made part of
the Central
Provinces.

Jubbulpore,—the chief town of the district of the same name. It is situated in latitude $23^{\circ} 9' 31''$, and longitude $79^{\circ} 59' 43''$, and is for the most part surrounded by small hills except towards the north-east. The elevation has been variously computed. Thornton says:—it is 1458 feet above the level of the sea. It is 111 miles distant south-east from Saugor, 222 south-west from Allahabad, and 156 north-east from Nagpore.

Jubbulpore.
Position.

The town owes its name to the nature of the surrounding country—Jubbulpore meaning the city of peaks. It is a large and thriving town, containing 10,000 houses, and a population of 36,000. There are several fine tanks in and around the city, such as the Hunooman talao, Ranee talao, the Cheree talao, the Gulgulla, and many others. The supply of water is also good. The principal streets are broad, well drained, and fairly lighted; the smaller streets have not yet been all supplied with permanent drains, but a new system of drainage is being extended over the whole town. The most important market places are Lord Gunj, built in commemoration of Lord William Bentinck's visit to Jubbulpore, and the Naj and Subzee Mundees, lately constructed to

Size of town.

Drainage.

JUBBULPORE.

meet the increasing wants of the town. There are also O'Briengunj, Malonygunj and Nembhardgunj, built by the officers whose names they bear. The Nembhardgunj is well designed and especially deserves mention. The roads throughout the city are in excellent order.

Octroi.

Octroi duties are levied on articles consumed in the town. From this source a sum of about Rs. 25,000 a year is raised, out of which the town police and conservancy establishment are paid, and the balance is expended on drainage, repairs of roads, and general improvement of the town.

Population.

Of the entire population only about 2,000, or one-eighteenth of the whole, are Mahomedans, the remainder are Hindus of all castes. The Mahomedans are merchants and general traders, Government servants, weavers, &c. The Hindus are principally Mahajuns, Bunneas of the Purwar caste, brasiers, grocers, cloth merchants, grain-dealers, sonars, carpenters, blacksmiths, agriculturists, and common day-labourers.

The station is distant about a mile from the city, being separated therefrom by a small river called the Oomtee, which is dry during seven months of the year.

Civil staff.

Jubbulpore is the head-quarters of a Commissioner. The Civil staff consists of a Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner, two Assistants, and three Extra-Assistant Commissioners. There is also a Small Cause Court, presided over by an experienced judge; an Inspector of Schools; and lastly, a District Superintendent of Police. There is also a Civil Surgeon and a Sub-Assistant Surgeon. There are several merchants of considerable wealth. We may enumerate Messrs. G. Warwick, Howard Brothers, Cursetjee & Co., Veeraswamy Naido. The principal bankers are the Branch Bank of Bengal, the Delhi Bank, Seth Khoshal Chund, Bunseela Abeer Chund Rae Bahadoor, and Hameer Mull.

Railway.

Jubbulpore is on the junction of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway from Bombay, and the branch from Mirzapore of the East Indian Railway.

Engineers.

There are therefore numerous Engineers stationed at Jubbulpore connected with the Railway. It is also the head-quarters of an Executive Engineer, charged with the maintenance and erection of public buildings, bridges, roads, &c.

Mission.

This is the head-quarters of a branch of the Church of England Mission. The two missionaries stationed here are the Revd. E. Champion and the Revd. Stuart. They have two excellent schools, in one of which pupils are prepared for matriculation at the Calcutta University.

Education.

The schools contain 287 pupils. Both receive a grant-in-aid from Government. There are also some female schools, one Town school attended by upwards of 100 scholars, and several indigenous schools.

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PORE.

The Church of England Mission has a small church attended chiefly by christian proselytes. There is also an excellent church belonging to the station, in which the Military chaplain of the station officiates.

The School of Industry, originally established to employ thugs and their descendants, still exists, and is famous for its carpets, tents, and other manufactures. There are two schools connected with this establishment, at which the children of persons employed on the workshops receive elementary instruction.

School of In-
dustry.

The troops quartered at Jubbulpore consist of:—a battery of Royal Artillery, a Squadron of Cavalry, one regiment of European Infantry and a Madras Regiment of Native Infantry.

Military.

At the commencement of our rule, the town was little more than a village. It is therefore entirely modern, and has extended to its present size and importance within the last 45 years. The table given below shows the import and export trade of this town during 1864-65:—

Trade.

Name of Article.	IMPORTS.		EXPORTS.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
			Maunds.	
Cotton	720	10 613	378	14 932
Sugar and goor	34 010	3 27 684	11 115	27 450
Salt	11 877	82 228	1 712	16 150
Wheat	68 939	1 01 722	13 684	39 211
Rice	19 105	67 238	119	256
Other edible grains	38 499	49 388	725	2 430
Oil seeds of all description...	3 160	7 028	49	126
Metals and hardware	5 724	2 27 276	2 657	1 01 097
English piece goods ..	7 954	6 41 790	3 284	2 77 143
Miscellaneous European goods	255	22 044	62	2 881
Country cloth	2 434	1 46 876	501	37 856
Lac	500	4 373	2 859	43 788
Tobacco	9 113	83 066	2 082	18 603
Spices	4 203	49 977	1 536	14 774
Country stationery	606	9 915	97	1 799
Silk and silk cocoons ..	38	6 752	167	1 53 644
Dyes	2 442	27 914	201	4 074
Hides and horns	42	905	7	145
Opium	11	6 496	..	..
Wool	451	1 365	1	30
Sheep No.	424	659	123	184
Timber and wood	211	60	..	..
Ghee and oil	1 612	32 148	457	7 581
Cocoanuts	2 855	28 248	1 209	23 092
Miscellaneous	0 413	87 251	1 987	10 369
Horses .. .. ..	...	..	..	..
Total ...	221 174	19 33 631	45 053	8 95 706

JUBBULPORE.

**Capture by
the British.**

Jubbulpore is considered to be a place of some military importance. In the rainy season the tanks and streams in the neighbourhood are greatly swollen. This adds to the strength of the position. In December 17th 1817 a British force of 1,100 men under General Hardyman defeated 5,000 Mahrattas. The loss on the side of the British was only two killed and ten wounded. But the Mahrattas suffered severe loss and fled, abandoning the town, 9 pieces of ordnance and military stores.

Agaria.

Agaria is the name of a village about 20 miles to the north-east of Jubbulpore near Mujhgawa. There is an iron mine at this village.

Bail Pittar.

Bail Pittar is the name of the village near Jhansighat, over which the aqueduct of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway passes.

Bhaner.

The Bhaner range of hills reach from nearly opposite Hoshungabad to Kuttungee. They form the northern boundary of the valleys of the Hirun and Nerbudda rivers through a portion of their course, and may be considered to be a branch of the Kymore hills. They are composed of sandstone. The highest peak is Kalunbea, which is 2,544 feet above the level of the sea.

Bhensakand.

Bhensakand is a part of the Kymore range of hills. It lies in latitude 23° 45' 55" and longitude 80° 15' 28", and is situated in the Sleemanabad Tehseel.

Bheraghat.

Bheraghat, also anciently called Bheragurb, is a village situated on the banks of the Nerbudda at a place where that river forces itself through magnesian limestone rocks 120 feet in height and presenting a mural surface to the river. The scenery is magnificent. A stranger may hire a canoe in the cold weather and proceed up the river, which is here as clear as crystal, between rocks that seem to meet overhead. The channel is devious, and every opening presents new features of beauty. In one place, the channel is so narrow that the natives call it the "monkey's leap." The natives have a myth that "Indra" made this channel for the waters of the pent up stream, and fable that the footsteps of Indra's elephant are still to be seen. The marks on the surface of the rock that pass for these footsteps receive the adoration of the more ignorant and superstitious. The scenery is very much heightened by the bright light of the moon, which has a weird effect on these stupendous and sometimes grotesque masses of rock. Near this ghat, which is only 9 miles from Jubbulpore, there are several conical hills. On one of these round hills a Hindoo temple has been made. The whole hill is covered with wood to the top, except on one side, where a sloping ascent has been made, and steps lined with masonry have been constructed. The temple consists of an inner shrine (an adyutum) and is surrounded by a circular cloister, in which are sculptures of very many of the Hindoo gods. The images of Shiva, perhaps, predominate. Many of these images have been greatly injured by the Mahomedans. It is traditionally stated that the chief injury was done when a portion of Aurungzebe's army was encamped in the neighbourhood of Singram-pore. There are shown some rude and slabbed excavations, in which

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ascetics are said to have lived. The view from this temple is exceedingly fine. A fair is held at Bheraghat every year, rather for religious purposes than for the purposes of trade. In 1864-65 the sales amounted to 20,075 rupees, and the property brought to the fair to 1,02,000 rupees. About 50,000 persons attended. The fair is held in November.

The course of the river through the marble rocks, it is supposed, "is that of an ancient trap dyke, from which the green stone has been removed, and the walls of which now stand as vertical cliffs of white marble, between which the Nerbudda flows. This is suggested by comparison of the face of these cliffs with the walls of the Bheraghat large dyke, where the basalt still in part remains to show the origin of the fissure."

Bhitreegurh hills. This range has a north-west direction, and bisects the pergunnah of Khoonbee. There are the remains of a fort on these hills near Bhitree. The altitude is never great, but barometrical observations for the determination of height have not yet been taken.

Bhitreegurh
hills.

Bijiragogurh is the name of a Tehseelee and fort recently included in the Administration of the Central Provinces, and belonging to the Jubbulpore district. It is bounded on the north by the Myhere State, east by Rewah, and west by the Sleemanabad Tehseel and Punnah. The area is about 750 square miles. It has thus been described by Mr. Grant, the Settlement Officer :—

Bijiragogurh.

"The western half is a valley lying between the Kymore hills on the north, and a low range known as the Kynjooa on the south. The central portion of this valley appears to be generally high and arid, but there is a belt of rich land under each hill range. The population here belong chiefly to the Brahmin, Koormee, and Kachee classes; and the hill tracts of the Kynjooa are stated to be inhabited by Gonds. The eastern is the richest half, and contains a good deal of black soil, especially to the north. The southern part consists both of black and light soil, and is interspersed with hill and jungle. Here is a reserved Government forest, managed by the Forest Department of the Central Provinces. The best lands in this portion of the pergunnah are occupied by Koormees."

The town, or rather village of Bijiragogurh, contains a population variously estimated at from 12 to 1500. The whole Tehseel does not contain more than 70,000 inhabitants. There is a handsome but comparatively modern fort at this place. The trade is not great. There are only two bankers of any means in the town. Lac, iron, and ghee are said to be exported to Mirzapore. Cultivation is scanty, partly owing to the nature of the soil and partly to the "depressing effects of the late Native rule," but improvement in this respect may be anticipated. The land revenue may be estimated at 50,000 rupees. Tenant-right was altogether unrecognised by the Native administration. From time to time, annually or biennially, villages were sold by auction and given to

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the highest bidder. Farmers were allowed no rights beyond the terms of their leases. The Settlement Officer remarks, "under our Administration a rule of practice has obtained, which goes much further towards creation of a tenant-right than Act X of 1859. If a landlord receives a better bid for any holding in his villages than the rent paid by the occupant tenant, he is bound to test the fairness of the offer by arbitration. If the arbiters consider that the bid fairly represents the value of the holding, the occupant tenant is asked whether he is willing to retain his holding at a rent, in advance indeed of his former payments, but somewhat below that offered by the new candidate. Only in case of the occupant tenant's refusal to accept these favourable terms, is his ejection permitted."

Coal.

Coal is said to have been found near Katowlee.

Roads.

The only roads of importance are the Northern road, between Jubbul-pore and Mirzapore, which passess through the north-east angle of the district; the road from Sohagpore to Myhere; and the road from a village on the Mirzapore road to the head-quarters of the Tehseel. Bin-jarras frequent the route to Sohagpore, of which a small portion from its commencement at Myhere is said to have been metalled. The district was, previous to its annexation to the Central Provinces, managed by the Political Officer at Nagode. A desription of the Mahanuddy will be found under the proper heading.

Bijooa hills.

The Bijooa hills are situated about 10 miles to the north-east of Sehora. They are composed of metamorphic rock. The highest peak, that of Bichua, is in latitude $23^{\circ} 15' 52''$, and in longitude $80^{\circ} 5' 42''$.

Bilheri.

Bilheri is situated about 9 miles to the south-west of Moorwarra, and is 15 miles due north of Sleemanabad; latitude $23^{\circ} 44'$, longitude $80^{\circ} 22'$. It is in all probability one of the oldest towns in the Jubbulpore district and now contains about 450 houses. The main line of communication between the valley of the Ganges and Nerbudda used to run through it. All around and in every street of it are to be seen ancient remains, which prove it once to have been a city of some importance. At various times the name of the town has been changed; it is said first to have been called Babaot Nuggree or Babaotee, then Papaot Nuggree, and lastly, a Rajah named Bul was defeated near the town which was always afterwards called Bilheri. The inhabitants of the place, however, say that the name of Bilheri is derived from a kind of "Pān" for which the place was once famous; this may be the case, as even now, notwithstanding the decadence of the place, the "Pān" gardens are numerous and beautiful. But it is said by others that the "Pān" derives its name from the town, and not the town from the "Pān". According to tradition Babaotee was, many centuries ago, a very flourishing city. Its temples where numbered by hundreds; and the pilgrims who flocked from all parts of India to do homage at the various shrines were counted by thousands. It is said that in those days the city itself was (8 coss) 24 miles in circumference. In the centre of the town there is now standing an old building formerly used as a "Murha," and still called

by that name, from which not many years ago some Deputy Commissioner of Jubbulpore removed a (Beejuk) large stone bearing an inscription, containing part of the former history of the place. In this Beejuk is mentioned the names of some thirty seven kings, of whom the last but one succeeded to the guddee in Sumbut 1815 (A. D. 1758). It is commonly believed that Aurungzebe paid a visit to Bilheri; and to him is given the credit of throwing down the temples and disfiguring the images. From the best information now obtainable on the subject, it appeared that in Sumbut 1546 (A. D. 1489), the town of Bilheri and the pergannah bearing the same name, consisting of about 30 villages, belonged to the kings of Mundla; in whose possession it continued until Sumbut 1855 (A. D. 1798), when it fell into the hands of the Chief of Saugor. In Sumbut 1853 (A. D. 1796), Bilheri and some other districts were presented to Rughojee Bhonslah the 1st, Raja of Nagpore, as a reward for services rendered in assisting the Peishwa of Poona in a war against the Nizam of Hyderabad. In Sumbut 1874 (A. D. 1817), Bilheri was ceded by the Bhonslahs to the British Government. In A. D. 1857, during the great Indian mutiny, the fort of Bilheri was occupied by a party of rebels under Rugonath Sing Boondela, of Recchool, in Punnah. So soon as this became known, native troops were sent against the place from Jubbulpore and Nagode, but before they arrived the rebels had decamped. Soon afterwards the fort was, by the order of Government, dismantled, and not only were the outer walls levelled, but the whole place was converted into that chaotic mass of ruins it now is. The present town of Bilheri is picturesquely situated, among fine groves of mango and other trees, in a fertile country, the surface of which is broken by numerous hills. The large tank (Luchimun Saugor), the many ancient remains and the fine old baolees in the town itself, are well worthy of a visit from travellers in the neighbourhood.

Bolia is situated about 20 miles to the south-west of Jubbulpore. There are iron mines in the neighbourhood.

Bolia:

The Bowergurh hill is situated to the south-west of Jubbulpore, and rises about 500 feet above the valley. It is formed of schistose quartzite, and is separated from the general range of trap hills by a narrow gorge. Near this hill coal is found. This hill must not be mistaken for another of the same name, 33 miles south of Hoshungabad, and 30 miles north of Baitool.

Bowergurh:

Bughrajee, spelt Bugurajhee in our maps, is a village about 8 miles to the south-east of Mujgaon. At this village the iron sand called "dhao" is smelted.

Bughrajee:

Burela. This town contains 591 houses and 2,233 inhabitants. It is about 10 miles to the south-east of Jubbulpore. It is said to have been founded in the reign of one of the Gond Rajahs, about 1100 years ago. It is thus a place of considerable antiquity. The present Thakoors obtained 14 villages in talooqa Pendwar, for good service rendered by

Burela.

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them to Rajah Shcoraj Sah of Gurrah Mundla. Before the year 1857 the town was noted for the manufacture of gun barrels. The Malgoozar is a Brahmin.

Burgee.

Burgee is the principal town in the pergannah of the same name. It is on the road to Nagpore, and is 12 miles from Jubbulpore. It contains 163 houses and 446 inhabitants. The village is situated on the road between Nagpore and Jubbulpore, about 15 miles distant from the latter place, and 10 miles from the Nerbudda. It is surrounded by hills. There is a school and a police station here. The Malgoozar is a Brahmin. The pergannah of Burgee lies to the south of the Nerbudda.

Dubwarra.

Dubwarra. At this village coal is found. It is 20 miles to the north-east of Jubbulpore.

Durshunee.

Durshunee is two miles to the north-west of Sehora. It contains 271 houses and 743 inhabitants. The district road from Sehora to Kuttunghee passes through this village. The present village is said to stand on the site of the once notorious Andhernugyree, so called from the vices of its inhabitants. There are several tanks which are largely used for irrigation. The soil is fertile. The Mâlgoozars are a Marwaree and a Mussulman.

Goareeghat.

Goareeghat is on the Nerbudda, and about 5 miles from Jubbulpore. It is on the road to Sconee. The Nerbudda is here fordable during part of the cold weather, and all the hot season, but in the rains it is a rapid torrent, more than 50 feet in depth. The view over the Nerbudda at that time is full of interest. The road from Jubbulpore is very picturesque; it winds amongst hills. In these hills there are sometimes found tanks in a very fair state of preservation. They were made by the Gonds. Here there is a Custom house for timber; it has been estimated that in 1860-61-62, 150,000 logs of small sized teak cut for sleepers were brought down.

Gone.

The Gone river rises in the Mundla district, and empties itself into the Nerbudda near Silwa. It has in the Jubbulpore district an easterly course.

Goraya.

The Goraya river forms the boundary of the Dumoh and Jubbulpore districts. It rises at Kuttunghee, and after a devious course of about 30 miles, flows into the Beermi.

Gosulpore.

Gosulpore is an ancient and considerable village on the road to Mirzapore, and about 18½ miles from Jubbulpore. There is an excellent bungalow at this place, and some good houses in the neighbourhood. There is a Government school. It is mentioned in an old narrative written in 1790 "as a large and clean place," and it still maintains its reputation.

Gurha.

Gurha was the capital of the Gond kingdom of Gurha Mundla. It is a very ancient town, and probably existed before the Christian era. Near this town are the extensive ruins of Teor and Tripurapuri. It is three miles to the west of Jubbulpore. Its elevation above the sea is 1,400

feet. The latitude of the fort, known as the Muddun Mahall, is $23^{\circ}8'53''$ and its longitude $79^{\circ}56'38''$. The granite hills in this neighbourhood form a group about two miles across. The town itself extends along this mountainous ridge for about the same distance. Gurha began to decay before the occupation of the country by the English. Its decline in importance dates from the removal of the Gond dynasty to Singorgurh, and subsequently to Mundla. The Muddun Mahall was built about A. D. 1100 by Muddun Sing. It is now a ruin. Under the Muddun Mahall and to the west is the beautiful Gunga Sagur tank, and near it is the large sheet of water called the Bai Sagur.

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There is little trade. The place consists of 1,045 houses, and is inhabited by 4,126 people. There is an excellent Government school, numbering about 100 scholars. There was formerly a mint at this place, in which an inferior rupee called the Balla Shaliu was coined. This rupee was current throughout Bundelkund. The mint was in full operation when Mr. Daniel Leckie passed through the place in 1790. It is 90 miles south-east from Saugor, 200 south-west from Allahabad, 303 south from Agra, and 273 west from Mhow.

Number of
houses.

Mint.

Hirun.

The Hirun river rises in latitude $23^{\circ}30'$ and longitude $80^{\circ}20'$. It is a small but rapid river, and after a course of more than 100 miles falls into the Nerbudda at Sakur; in latitude $23^{\circ}4'$, longitude $79^{\circ}26'$. It is an affluent of the right bank of the Nerbudda, which at its confluence has attained the width of 600 yards. The general course of the river is south-west.

Imlai is a village situated near the road between Jubbulpore and Shaporah. It lies 22 miles due east of the former. Between Imlai and Jubbulpore are low trap hills covered with jungle. There is some growing teak on the hill to the west of Imlai. There is a Government school at this place. The ancestors of the present talooqdar, Rajah Mehtab Sing, were related to the Rajah of Mundla. They held the talooqa in jagheer. The Mahrathas imposed an oobarce, which has been continued. Near the village is a tank which contains water even in the driest season.

Imlai.

Indrana is a village picturesquely situated near the Hirun river. The Malgoozar is a Lodhee. The village is said to have been founded by Rajah Nizam Sah. The garden laid out, and the well dug by Pundit Balajee Soobah, under the Saugor Rajah's administration, still exist. The village is now held by the descendants of Dewan Kummode Sing, to whom it was granted by the Nagpore Mahrathas. There is a mud castle. On the south of the town runs the Hirun river, which is here 200 feet broad. The place is noted for dyeing cloths. There are some fine topes of trees in the neighbourhood, and the country abounds in game. There is good fishing in the neighbouring river, latitude $23^{\circ}24'2''$, longitude $79^{\circ}56'22''$.

Indrana.

Jabeera is a village on the road to Saugor. It is 39 miles north-west of Jubbulpore. The people are chiefly agricultural. There is a trivial manufacture of knives. The school of Jabeera is well attended.

Jabeera.

Koondum
Tehseel.
Jhilmilla.

Jhilmilla, spelt Jalmilla on the maps, is about nine miles to the north of Koondum and is in the Sehora Tehseel. About this village there are a number of iron furnaces, and the jungle has been entirely destroyed by the charcoal burners. The country between this village and Koondum is wild and picturesque, but there is no valuable timber.

Kaloombee.

Kaloombee is the highest peak in the Bhaner range of hills. It is in the neighbourhood of Kuttunghee. Altitude 2,544 ; latitude 23°-27'-53", longitude 79°-46'-51".

Khoombee.

Khoombee is a village giving its name to the pergannah. This tract of country is famous for iron. The eastern portion is covered with forest. It is about 10 miles east by south of Schora, and 12 miles south of Sleemanabad. It is situated on a rising ground on the banks of the Hirun, and contains several temples. There are now in the village 130 houses and 573 inhabitants. The place was formerly one of importance, and in former times was the seat of a large fair. Under the Bhonslahs the village deteriorated, and it has never recovered its importance. The river Hirun is here deep and abounds in fish.

Koondum.

Koondum is a village on the road between Jubbulpore and Shahpoorah. It is almost 27 miles from Jubbulpore and lies almost due east. About half a mile to the south-east of Koondum, there is a small tank which is said to be the source of the Hirun river. There is a legend connected with this tank, that is perhaps worth narrating. It is said to have been dug by Kullian Sing. When this tank was completed the water overflowed and burst the banks of the tank. To prevent a repetition of this accident, Kullian Sing was advised to make a human sacrifice. He accordingly sacrificed his daughter's suitor to appease the angry water god. According to Gond customs the would be son-in-law was residing in Kullian Sing's house, passing the customary time of servitude. Kullian Sing's daughter then threw herself into the tank, whose waters, though appeased by the first sacrifice, immediately rose, burst their embankments and formed the Hirun,—so called from Hirra, or Hurra, Kullian's daughter.

Kotee

Kotee is a large village about 15 miles east by north of Moorwarra. Here is a fine stone tank, and the village is worthy of remark, on account of the iron which abounds in the neighbourhood.

Kowreea.

Kowreea. This village is 5 miles to the west of Sleemanabad. During the Gond Government the road from the north passed through this place. Here accordingly was established a post for levying duty, and the place is said to have derived its name from the duty having been taken in cowries. There are now 226 houses and 1262 inhabitants. The tank to the north of the village is said to be very ancient, having in fact been excavated in the time of Rajah Dharoo Sah. The present Malgozar is a Brahmin.

Kuttunghee.

Kuttunghee is a rather large but decaying village, situated at the foot of the Bhaner hills. It is 22 miles to the north-west of Jubbulpore, on the north side of the Hirun river, and is on the route to Saugor. At this village

there is a tank and the remains of some mosques. Many of the inhabitants are Mahomedans, and are said to be the descendants of the soldiers of Akhbar and Aurungzebe, both of whom encamped near this place. It used to be famous for the manufacture of gun barrels, which were, Thornton says, "largely exported." There are now 348 houses and an agricultural population numbering 2,947. There is a Government school. Latitude 23°-27', longitude 79°-50'.

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The Kymore range of hills extends south-west from latitude 24°-40', longitude 82°, for about 80 miles, and divides the valley of the Tons from that of the Sone. According to Franklin, the formation is primitive sandstone intermixed with schistose limestone. The range belongs geologically to the Vindhyan, and is entirely distinct from the Mahadeo hills, south of the Nerbudda, which are associated with coal. Kymore is a large village that takes its name from the range of hills. It is to the north-west of Jubbulpore. It is situated on the Hirun, on the banks of which river are several temples dedicated to Mahadeo. The present Thakoor is an Aheer, and tenth in descent from Rao Chooramun, the founder of the village. The river is fordable. Kymore is nine miles from Patun, and five from Kuttunghee.

Kymore.

Lametaghāt is on the Nerbudda. Near this ghat coal is found. The coal has been worked—*vide article Jubbulpore.*

Lametaghāt.

Magardha is an ancient village in the Sleemanabad Tchseel, founded by Gonds. At this village is a Gond fort, or rather its remains. It is about 5 miles to the north of Bilheri.

Magardha.

The Mahanuddy river must not be confounded with the larger one of the same name that rises in the south-west frontier of Bengal. This stream is comparatively trivial. It rises in the Mundla district and flows into the Sone. During a portion of its course it forms the boundary between Rewah and Jubbulpore. Coal is found on the banks of this river near Deesee, where there is a warm spring. Sal grows on both banks of the river. It has a course of about 100 miles.

Mahanuddy.

Moorwara is a small town on the road from Jubbulpore to Mirzapore. It is 57 miles from Jubbulpore and contains 418 houses, inhabited by 1,735 people, chiefly agriculturists. The population are mostly Hindoos. There is but little trade. There is a Government school at this place. Limestone suitable for lithographic purposes is said to be found near this place—*vide Madras Records, No. II.* The town is ancient. At this place, the Kutnee river is crossed by two fine bridges, the one on the northern road and the other for the railway.

Moorwara.

Mujhgawa, or Mujgaoon, is a considerable village, situated to the north-east of Jubbulpore, from which it is about 30 miles distant. It is the site of a Town school. There is a large tank near the village, which is said to have been founded by Rajah Hirdeh Sah. The tank covers 125 acres, and is called Sarwan Sagur, after its excavator. The village is surrounded by beautiful groves of trees, and the soil is fertile. There are 486 houses and 2,318 inhabitants. Many Lohars and Brahmins reside here.

Mujhgawa.

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The Nagar hills lie between Jubbulpore and Mundla. The road to the latter place passes over these hills. They may be considered as forming a portion of the northern boundary of the Nerbudda, whose course in Burgee is nearly due north and south. They are covered with forest.

Patna river

The Patna rises in the Bhaner range of hills in the Sleemanabad Tehseel, and after a northerly course of 35 miles it falls into the Beermi on the right bank. For some distance this river forms the boundary between Punnah and the Jubbulpore district.

Patun.

Patun is a town situated 21 miles to the north-west of Jubbulpore. It consists of 669 houses, and has a population of 2,513 souls. It gives its name to the Pergunnah. The only trade is in grain. There is a Government school at this place.

Piprode.

Piprode is a village on the road from Mirzapore to Jubbulpore. It is 49 miles to the north-east of the latter. Near this village is a large tank, said to have been constructed by Mr. Macleod, now Lieut. Governor of the Punjab.

Punagurh.

Punagurh is distant 9½ miles from Jubbulpore on the Northern road. It is a large town containing 1,303 houses and a population of 4,063 people. The majority of the inhabitants are agriculturists. Near this village are several iron mines; and iron is the principal article of trade. There is a Government school at this place, which is fairly attended. The following is the trivial derivation of its name. "Some centuries back it was first inhabited by a family of Bhuraes, or Pan producers, who called the place Pangurh, which has changed in course of time to Punagurh." No reliance can be placed on this derivation, but the town is now said to be noted for its "Pan."

Sehora.

Sehora, a town and head quarters of a Tehseel, contains 988 houses and 4,027 inhabitants. It is on the direct route from Jubbulpore to Mirzapore. From the latter it is distant 27 miles. The great majority of the inhabitants are agriculturists, but there is a considerable trade in grain and other country produce. In 1864-65 the octroi amounted to Rs. 1,100. The town police is maintained by the octroi. Sehora has long been a place of considerable importance. In the neighbourhood are several remarkable hills composed of metamorphic rocks. There is a Government school. The village is said to have been founded by Raghoor Singh. In the time of Rajah Nizam Sah the Gond Soobah resided here. About four miles to the south runs the Hirun river; and at the distance of 10 miles to the north runs the Navee Nullah. It owes its name to the slates found in its bed, which are used by barbers as honests. Some of the school children use pieces of the stone for slates.

Singorghur.

Singorghur is a fort erected by Singram Singh, in commemoration of his victory over the Mahomedans. In the time of Aurungzebe it sustained a siege of nine months. The remains of the fort still exist. Singorghur gives its name to a plateau containing 390 square miles.

Singrampore is a village 30 miles from Jubbulpore, on the road to Saugor. It is said to have derived its name from Rajah Singram Sing, the son of Urjoon Sing, who here obtained a victory over a portion of Akbar's army.

Sleemanabad is on the Northern road, and is 40 miles distant from Jubbulpore. It is a bazar established by the late General Sleeman, hence the name.

Sompore is a village picturesquely situated on the high banks of the Pareyt, an affluent of the Hirun. It is about 9 miles east by north of Jubbulpore. The soil in the neighbourhood is basaltic. There is extensive jungle. This village gives its name to the pergannah. Here were stationed, in the Mahratta rule, a body of cavalry.

Tewur is a considerable village near the site of the ancient Teor. It is about six miles from Jubbulpore on the Nursingpore road. There is a large tank at this village. There is a Government school at Tewur. Near here occur the famous ruins of Kurunbel. The most flourishing days of Kurunbel and Tripurapuree were probably in the time of the Ranees Doorgawuthee. For the last century the stones of Kurunbel have been used for the construction of ghats, temples, and houses; and recently the railway contractors have used the stone in making the necessary bridges and permanent way. Still the supply is said not to fail. Some very interesting pieces of sculpture have now been exhumed.

Ummerkuntuk, now belonging to the Rajah of Rewah. It was ceded to him shortly after the events of 1857-58. It was formerly a part of the Belaspore district. It rises at an elevation of 3,300 feet, and passing through the Mundla district, it enters Jubbulpore at Singoree. At Khan Khera it flows due north, and pursues that direction until a short distance to the east of Goareeghat, when it turns west and finally pursues a westerly course until it debouches into the Gulf of Cambay. In the Jubbulpore district until the neighbourhood of Bheraghat the Nerbudda might be said to flow through a cleft rather than a valley. A description of the Bheraghat appears under that heading. Just below this we reach the 3rd basin of the Nerbudda. The Nerbudda quits the district at Sakulghat, where it receives its principal affluent the Hirun. A detailed account of this river forms the subject of a separate heading.

JUBBUL
PORE,
Singrampore.

~~Sleemanabad~~

~~Sompore~~

~~Tewur.~~

Ummerkuntuk,

NERBUDDA.

NERBUDDA.

Source.

The ancient name of this river, as found in the Purans, is Rewah, from whence we probably have Rewah Kanta. The territory of Rewah either gave its name to the Nerbudda, or was so called because of the river that rose within its boundaries. The river rises in the elevated plateau of Ummerkuntuk now belonging to the Rajah of Rewah, it having been ceded to him shortly after the events of 1857-58. The tract formerly was a part of the British district of the Paindree Zemindarees of Belaspore. It rises at an elevation of 3,300 feet, and is not a yard wide at its issue from the tank at Ummerkuntuk in lat. $22^{\circ} 39'$ and long. $81^{\circ} 49'$ The whole extent of the plateau is about six miles from east to west by 5 miles from north to south, and its area contains about 30 square miles. The southern and eastern sides form a kind of bluff promontory terminating in an abrupt precipice. Its length from its source to its entry into the gulf of Cambay is, according to Thornton, 801 miles. Its principal affluents on the right or north bank are the Balai passing under Shunker Gunj, the Hingna, the Gour, a beautiful stream a little east from Jubbulpore, the Hirun in the same district, the Jamnair in Bhopal, the Karun in Hoikar's dominions, crossed by the Bombay and Indore road, the Hutnee in Alleerajpore, a small district in Malwa under the political superintendence of the Governor General's Agent at Indore, the Aurrin in Rewah Kanta, and some others of less note.

Altitude.

Length.

Affluents.

On the left or south bank, the tributaries are more considerable. The Makrar, Chakrar, Khurmeyr, Boormeyr and Bunjur, with others, occur in the wilds of Ramgurh and Raigurh. The Bunjur empties itself into the Nerbudda just opposite to Mundla. From this point, owing to the propinquity of the cliffs of which the table-lands slope to the south, we have no more tributary streams until we meet the Teemur, a considerable affluent falling into the Nerbudda in the Burgee pergunnah above the Gour. Then we have the Sanai between Jubbulpore and Nursing-pore, the Sher in the latter district, the Sakur, Doodhye, Koramy, Machna, Towah, Gunjal and Ajnal in Hoshungabad, the Deeb 30 miles west of Mundlaisur, and the Gohee 39 miles further west. There are few rivers, probably none of the same size, that have so few and unimportant affluents. It is the main stream of the Nerbudda that first attracts, and by its charms retains the attention of the geologist, the antiquarian and the lover of the beautiful.

Falls.

The falls are those of Kupiledhara and Doodh-dhara near its source—the former of 78 feet; one at Oomeriah in the Nursingpore district, of about ten feet; at Mundhar 90 miles below Hoshungabad, and about 25 below Hindia, there is a fall of 40 feet; at Dadree 25 miles below Mundhar, there is another fall of 40 feet. This is the fall near ~~Bhanna~~. Near Mundhar the river presents an unbroken sheet of water 100 feet from bank to bank. The navigation is there quite impracticable. In the dry season there are four or five channels. At Sahesur Dhurra,

below Mundlaisur, there is a fall of 10 feet. Then the fall and rapids of **NERBUDDA**. Hirun Pal beyond Chiculda occur. At Haump in the Rewah Kanta division of Guzerat, there is the Balagory rapid ; at Mukri there is another fall; and a little lower down a dangerous whirlpool, which is said to embrace the whole bed of the Nerbudda. The Mukri barrier is one of the worst in the Nerbudda. It is about sixty miles below the Hirun Pal. Below this barrier and whirlpool the bed of the river is comparatively open, and the stream is navigable to Broach, a distance of some 70 miles. Nature reproduces itself, and this part of the stream may be styled the Bhairutty of Central India.

The coal mines belonging to the Nerbudda valley are all described in appendix A of the memoirs of the Geological Survey of India, Vol. II. Part II. The principal coal mines are those of Mopani, Rawundeo, Machna, Sonadi, Sooki Nulla, Lokurtullye, Hurd and Sakur, Sher river near Sehora, Machiriva river, Lametaghath and Bheraghat.

Coal mines.

Mopani is about 12 miles to the south of Gadurwara in the Nursing-pore district. The outcrop occurs on the banks of the Sita Riva river. Four beds occur of an average thickness of 10 feet, 2 feet 6 inches, 5 feet and 4 feet respectively. The locality is easily accessible, and little above the general level of the Nerbudda valley.

Mopani also bears the name of Chota Jubbulpore, and the coal-field is sometimes known as the "Berar field." The coal is now worked. The hill of Rawundeo is in the Chindwara district, 50 miles to the south-west of Hoshungabad, and about 30 miles to the north by east of Baitool. The path from Saleia village to the old hill fort of Asseerghur, (not by any means to be confounded with the fort of that name in the Nimar district,) crosses the Towah river, a little to the north of the hill, and itself passes over the east end of the hill. Here 21 feet 2 inches of coal are seen in eight distinct outcrops. But as some of these outcrops may be different parts of the same bed, it cannot be proved that the aggregate thickness of the different coal seams exceeds 10 feet 8 inches. At four of its outcrops the coal attains an average thickness of 3 feet. The beds have a low dip. Hence the coal will be got cheaply.

Shapore, on the Baitool and Hoshungabad road, is about 12 miles from the spot, and a branch road could easily be constructed thereto. But Rawundeo is far from the Nerbudda valley.

The coal seam in the bank of the Machna river comes to the surface about 3 miles from Shapore, on the Baitool and Hoshungabad road. There are two seams, one shaly and impure, and the other of excellent quality, 3 feet thick, and having a dip of 30°.

The coal at Sonadi was successfully worked by Mr. Johnstone under the directions of Sir Robert Hamilton, formerly Governor General's Agent at Indore. The coal is of good quality and the outcrop occurs about seven miles from the Baitool and Hoshungabad road, and lies to the east of that route. It is about 40 miles to the south by east of Hoshungabad. The general extent of this field is probably fifteen by seven miles.

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Near the junction of the Sooki nulla with the Towah, two thin seams of coal occur. This may perhaps be worked profitably. Near Lokurtullye, which is in the Baitool district, about 12 miles from Seonee in the Hoshungabad district, on the Morun river bank, a 3 feet seam of coal outcrops. This seam is within ten miles of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, and it is now worked by the Company. This is the most westerly of all the known outcrops. It is easily approached from the Nerbudda valley, indeed it is very little above the level of that valley.

The Hurd and Sakur, or Sakur coal seams outcrop in a gorge at the junction of these two rivers, some 20 miles to the south-east of Mopani and 3 miles south of the village of Hutnapoore in Chindwara. This locality is described by Colonel Ouseley. The seams are extremely difficult of access and are difficult to work.

The outcrop near Sehora in the Nursingpore district on the Sher river is well situated, but the coal is said to be, as an article of commerce, nearly useless.

The Machiriva river is an affluent of the Sher, and at a village called Murpripria, two miles above the junction of the rivers, coal is seen. There are two seams of ten inch and two feet thickness. The quality of the coal is good, and the place is accessible. Lameta and Bhera ghats are near Jubbulpore. The Lametaghata coal has already been described. At or near the right bank no coal is found, none occurring in sandstone of the Vindhyan series.

Iron.

The principal iron mines are those of Tendukhera in the Nursingpore district; Poonassa in Nimar; Burwai, where the Indore and Boorhanpore road crosses the Nerbudda; Katcot in Holkar's territory, 103 miles west-south-west from Hoshungabad, and 120 miles north-west from Ellichpore; Chandgurh, belonging to Scindia, about 60 miles south-east from Indore, and 12 or 14 miles to the north-east of Poonassa on the right bank of the Nerbudda; and Baug in the State of Dhar, but believed to belong to Scindia.

At Tendukhera the iron is a red hematite. The bridge over the Beos was made of this iron, and testifies amply to the value of the ore. This iron will be rendered trebly valuable by the tramroad now under construction, that is to connect the iron field with the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, and so with the coal mines of Mopani. The village of Poonassa is from 10 to 12 miles distant from the ore-pits, and the Chandgurh ore-pits are distant about 3 miles from that village. The ore near Chandgurh occurs in gravel-like deposits. It covers an area of one-fourth of a square mile. The thickness of the deposit varies from 5 feet to a mere pebble scattering on the surface of the soil. There is also a vein of rich specular iron about 8 miles north-east of the Chandgurh deposits. It is of variable thickness, from 2 feet to 10; of fine rich quality, and with little admixture of stony matter. Doctor Oldham considers this the most valuable ore in the whole district.

At Katcot the variety is known as brown iron-stone hydrated peroxide. It is worked without flux. The yield by native method is

one-fifth of iron and 80 per cent. of loss.

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At Baug the ore is said to have the character of the clay iron ore of the coal measures. The Baug ore is said by Dr. Giraud to yield 40 per cent. of ore. At Poonassa the cost of the ore is rather less than 4 rupees a ton, and at villages on the north side of the Nerbudda, at Chandgurh for instance, the cost is less. In 1856 the estimated number of country furnaces at Chandgurh and Poonassa was 40. The outturn of the entire number, it was estimated, did not exceed $7\frac{1}{2}$ tons in a working month of 25 days. Doctor Oldham considered that the want of fuel was a complete barrier to the establishment of iron works on a large scale at Poonassa.

There is also an antimony mine in the neighbourhood of the Nerbudda between Hurdah and Charwah, on the line of railway.

Antimony.

The districts passed through are Mundla, Jubbulpore, Nursingpore, Hoshungabad, Nimar and Kandeish.

Districts.

The largest town on the Nerbudda is that of Broach, which is situated at its mouth. From its source to its debouchure the "Nerbudda is closely bounded on both banks by two ranges of high hills, from 200 to 2,000 feet high, these are the Vindhyan and Baner mountains on the north bank; the Sautpooras, Kalygong, and Mahadeo hills on the south; the two great ranges which cross Central India, and which have elevated spots, such as Ummerkuntuk, 3,300 feet; Puchmurree, 3,500; Mainpal, 2,700; and Jainghat, 2,000 feet high. The grotesquely shaped summits of the Puchmurree hills, and their bold perpendicular faces form a conspicuous feature in many fine landscapes.* In no points continuously are these ranges distant from the river above forty miles, the average being 18 or 20, and they run parallel to it through its whole length. Of these two parallel ranges the great rock escarpment of the Vindhya is the most striking. Seen from the south it presents an almost uninterrupted series of headlands with projecting promontories and receding bays, like a weather beaten coast line. It would be difficult to point out a finer example of cliffs once formed by the denuding action of shore waves, but now far inland, than is exhibited along this range. From the summit of these cliffs there is no abrupt descent to the north corresponding to the southern declivity. On the contrary, the plateau stretches away in gentle undulations. The northward slope commences at the very edge of the escarpment, and the rivers Sonar, Betwa and Dessan have their origin in places that may almost be said to overhang the Nerbudda valley. In fact the southern limits of the drainage area of the Ganges approach the main stream of the Nerbudda. On the south side of the Nerbudda valley the hills present a more broken and less regular outline. "In its upper portion from Mundla, and almost from Ummerkuntuk to Jubbulpore, in

Towns.

General description.

* Vide Bombay Records No. XIX - 1855, and Memoirs of the Geological Survey.

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the centre from just below Hindia to Burwy, and lower down, from the Hirun Pal to Mukri, the hills close in so narrowly as to form absolutely the banks of the river. The abrupt face of both these ranges is to the south, their declivity and principal watershed to the north. The great affluents which supply the river are consequently furnished from the north aspect of the southern range. These streams, after escaping from the gorges of the Gondwana hills, have hollowed channels for themselves across the flat ground beyond, and expose in their course many rocks distinct from each other in age and differing among themselves in lithological character. The various structures of these rocks and diverse modes of position and disintegration have impressed on the landscape that endless variety of outline from which its principal charm is derived.

The northern feeders, being comparatively smaller than the southern, are also fewer and shorter. The proximity of the hills increases the number of these feeders, adds immensely to their volume and velocity, and accounts equally for the sudden flushing of the river in the rains to seventy and ninety feet, often in a few hours, and also for its shallowness in the fair season. The tributaries being literally the drainage of the mountain ranges, which rapidly empty themselves, owing to their short course and rapid fall; their rugged and precipitous nature, in fact, makes them torrents rather than streams. Of their size some idea may be gathered from one (the Towah), whose flood area is stated by Mr. Berkley to be 1,276 yards from bank to bank in the rains, while it is all but dry in the fair weather. The Karun also, near Goojee, on the north bank, is nearly as wide, requiring a bridge of five large elliptical arches to span it.

The Nerbudda flows through a cleft rather than a valley.

The Nerbudda, then, rising in the highest land of Central India, and pursuing a serpentine westerly course through a hilly tract, which runs parallel to, and borders closely, both its banks, may be said to flow through a longitudinal cleft rather than a distinct valley, and to present the general characters of a mountain stream more than anything else. No great depth of water can ever be expected in it, from the nature of its tributaries, except in the monsoon; neither, were they to promise better, could it be retained, owing to the great declivity of the bed of the river. So short a course, with such an extent and approximation of mountain region, precludes *a priori* much internal navigation, which implies length, and little elevation. In this respect the Nerbudda resembles similarly circumstanced rivers in mountainous countries, as in the north of Scotland, Sweden, Norway, and the west coast of America, the rivers of which are useless for purposes of navigation. Unlike even the rivers of India, it has no lower or level portion, except for about sixty to eighty miles from Tullukwarra, or Mukri, to the sea, and even in that distance it is interrupted at low water by several rapids.

Slope

Jhansighat near Jubbulpore is believed to be about 1,300 feet above the level of the sea, and Chituldah on the north bank of the river in

Holkar's dominions 583 feet. The distance between Ummerkuntuk and Jhansighat is about 250 miles, whilst that between Jhansighat and Chikuldah is 350 miles. It follows therefore that to Jhansighat the average slope of the bed of the river is 8 feet per mile, whilst between Jhansighat and Chikuldah it is 2 feet per mile. Thus the average fall of the Nerbudda, from its source to its mouth, is no less than 5 feet per mile; and in the Bombay Records No. XIV. the slope has been estimated at 6½ feet per mile. But this is too much. The writer appears to have considered Ummerkuntuk to be 5,000 feet above the level of the sea, instead of only 3,300. But even with this correction it will be seen, from the above comparison, that the slope of the Nerbudda is excessive, and that consequently the river must flow with considerable velocity. In the rains Captain Evans computed the current to be 6 or 7 miles an hour, and Captain Fenwick 8 or 9 miles. In the dry weather Lieutenant Keatinge found it to be 3 or 4. The decline of the river is not, as has been seen from the water falls already mentioned, a gradual slope, but is intercepted by ledges.

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The basins of the Nerbudda are the following :—

Velocity.

Basins.

1st.—The basin extending from Mohturra about 35 miles from Ramgurb to Karinjea at the foot of Ummerkuntuk, the burial place of four German Missionaries. It has recently been described to be "a splendid plain of good soil, spreading out several miles to the east and west, and continuing without a single break, except the small hill by Roosa, to the foot of the Ummerkuntuk range at Karinjea."

2nd.—The plain extending from Ramnuggur to Mundla, a distance of about 9 miles.

3rd.—The plain extending from the Bheraghat near Jubbulpore to a little below Hindia. This basin is about 200 miles in length, but as has been already noticed, of but little width. It averages a height of about 1,000 feet above the level of the sea. It is one of the finest cultivated valleys in the continent of India. It has been for ages the granary of the Central India, and has sent food to starving millions during famines in Hindustan, &c., &c.

4th.—The plain reaching from "the quartz hills above Burwyc to Chikuldah." This basin is from 500 to 700 feet high, and extends above 100 miles. It is more open than the preceding basins. The Sautpoorah range is in some places 40 miles distant, but on the north the Vindhya approach to within 14 and 16 miles.

5th.—The third basin extends from the neighbourhood of Rajpepla to the sea. The writer in the Bombay Records, already quoted, remarks on the third and fourth basins as follows :—

"The banks of both basins are forty feet high, the soil alluvial, composed of marl and clay below, the superior stratum being the black vegetable mould. The upper basin is so level, that from Jubbulpore to Hoshungabad, upwards of 120 miles, the fall is little more than fifty

NERBUDDA. feet. In the lower, the fall averages about 200 feet. The centre of the latter is nevertheless nearly 400 feet below that of the upper ; Mundlaisur being 700, and Hoshungabad 1,070 feet above the sea ; and Tullukwarra, in the inferior or third basin, 100 miles lower down, is 450 feet lower than Mundlaisur.

" These successive steps, as it were, are occasioned by the perpendicular falls that intervene, that is from below Hindia to Burwye, and from the Hirun Pal to Mukri, and also above Jubbulpore. The true valley of the Nerbudda may therefore be confined to the undulating districts of these basins, which have evidently been marine lakes. In troughs in them, the sandstone and lime have been deposited, and the coal measures and minerals formed. These formations are mainly confined to the upper basins. In the lower, sandstone is met only at one place, Baug : from its carbonaceous colouring and admixture,—(the lime and associated clay-iron of the coal measures) coal will doubtless be found in the neighbourhood ; if so, its height, 300 feet above Chikuldah, and 850 above the sea, points to identity of formation and qualities."

The river is only navigable in certain portions of its course. From Ramnuggur to Mundla the river is navigable, and presents a broad and beautiful expanse of water as clear as crystal. The forest stretches on both sides of the river down to the banks of the stream and the boughs of the trees overhang the water. The traveller may watch as he glides down the stream in the early morning, peacock, jungle fowl and spotted deer descending to drink.

River navigable from Bheraghat to Hindia.

From Mundla to Jubbulpore the river is not navigable, but rafts of trees are occasionally floated down the stream. At Bheraghat the channel is contracted between perpendicular cliffs of magnesian limestone (*vide* Bheraghat), and flows apparently in an old trap dyke.

A fall of 10 feet at Oomeriah.

From this place to Hindia the river is navigable. There is only one fall of 10 feet opposite Oomeriah near Birman ghat. At the junction of the Towali river, there is a ledge of black limestone rock, which stretches across the river connecting the two banks as by a causeway. Below Hindia, the falls of Mundhar present an obstacle to navigation. The falls occur in latitude 22° 15', longitude 76° 48', below the source of the river 455 miles, above its mouth 346. At Dhadree, 25 miles lower down, is another fall of 40 feet. These are the falls near Poonassa. Generally the river may be regarded as not navigable until the island of Mundatta is reached. On this island are several ruinous pagodas which are annually much frequented, being sacred to Shiva. This is that religious fair which has often spread cholera amongst the people of the Central Provinces. Thus the god of destruction punishes his votaries. From Mundatta to Mundlaisur the river is navigable, and here accordingly a steamer belonging to His Highness the Maharajah of Indore wakes the silent echoes. Just opposite Mundatta, there is a very deep pool or "doh."

Mundatta.

Course to Mundlaisur.

Jacquemont describes the "river as 2,000 feet wide in the season of low water when it is fordable." In the monsoon the "water rises 30 or 40 feet" above its level in the hot season. About 70 miles below Mundlaisur occurs the rapid, and fall of Hirun Pal. The rapid is in latitude $22^{\circ} 5'$, longitude $74^{\circ} 48'$, 620 miles from the source and 181 from the mouth. In this distance of 70 miles, the only great obstacle is the Sahesur Dhurah fall. The portage at this fall is about 1,290 yards. From the Hirun Pal to Mukri, or just beyond to Soolpan Mahadeo, a distance of 70 miles, the river is unfit for navigation. The Mukri fall is in latitude $21^{\circ} 47'$, longitude $73^{\circ} 48'$, 691 miles from its source and 110 from its mouth.

From Mukri fall to Tullukwarra, a distance of 25 miles, the navigation is difficult, but practicable. From Tullukwarra, in latitude $21^{\circ} 57'$, longitude $73^{\circ} 32'$, (we here follow Thornton) to the sea, a distance of eighty-five miles, it is navigable for boats of considerable burthen. Flowing by the city of Broach, situate on its right or north bank, it falls into the gulf of Cambay in latitude $21^{\circ} 35'$, longitude $72^{\circ} 35'$. Its total length of course has been variously estimated. It is probably 801 miles. The tide is not felt at a greater distance than 55 miles from the sea. Contrast this with the tidal distance of other Indian rivers. Some idea may then be formed of the much greater rise in the bed of the Nerbudda as we proceed from the ocean. Throughout this portion of its course the breadth of the stream is about a mile. At Broach, about 30 miles from the mouth, it is a noble sheet of water, two miles wide, even where it is low tide. Steamers and ships of considerable size can proceed as far as Broach. But the navigation is intricate. There is a bar at the entrance of the river, and its channel is obstructed by sand-banks. The practicability of improving the navigation by artificial means has been considered. The velocity of the stream is, however, so great, and the rocks in its channel so numerous, that probably it will never be rendered navigable even for half its course.

According to a recent writer, the north bank, east and west of Broach, is high and precipitous, showing evident indications of the encroachment of the river during the period of floods; and by information obtained from the inhabitants, this wearing away is to the extent of thirty feet in a period of twenty years. The upper stratum of this bank is black earth, three to four feet thick, under which are alternate layers of sand and clay, varying from two to eight feet thick, mixed with kunkur. Twelve feet from the bed of the river, the clay becomes hard and tenacious, and appears to resist the action of the flood very considerably.

The south bank is low and shelving, about twenty-one feet above the summer level of the river; the upper stratum is alluvial deposit of earth and sand, in parts cultivated, and in others covered with low jungle, extending a distance of more than a mile, to a former channel of the river, when the bank again rises abruptly.

Floods are of two descriptions,—those occurring annually, during the periodical rains; and rapid freshes at the same season, owing, probably

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The Mukri fall.

Length.

Banks of the Nerbudda near Broach.

Floods.

NERBUDDA.

to the combined influence of a heavy fall of rain, a strong westerly wind, and high spring tides. The highest known rise of flood took place thirty years ago, by the account of the inhabitants, and appears to correspond with the great flood mentioned in the report of the Taptee river, namely, in the month of August 1837. The country in the vicinity of the river is spoken of as being entirely under water, except solitary knolls, upon which human beings and cattle congregated. This inundation, similar to the Taptee river, took a period of three days to attain its greatest height, and subsided in one, remaining nearly stationary twenty-four hours. With regard to the extent of country which was flooded no positive information can be obtained ; there is a prevalent report that the waters of the Taptee and Nerbudda joined, which, if true, would make it about forty miles.

Large quantities of drift timber and grass, bushes, tops of houses, and cattle, are brought down during the period of periodical floods. Upon a sudden rise in the river, tigers, bears, and several descriptions of deer, are also frequently brought down, together with a large number of snakes.

The nature of the deposit, after the floods have subsided, is alternate layers of sand and clay, as regularly as if deposited by human aid. Some of the layers vary in thickness, owing to the freshes being less at one time than another.

Notwithstanding such impetuous and grandly swelling floods, British skill and determination have thrown an imposing viaduct across the Nerbudda at Broach. On this viaduct is carried that iron road which supplements obedient and supersedes refractory rivers.

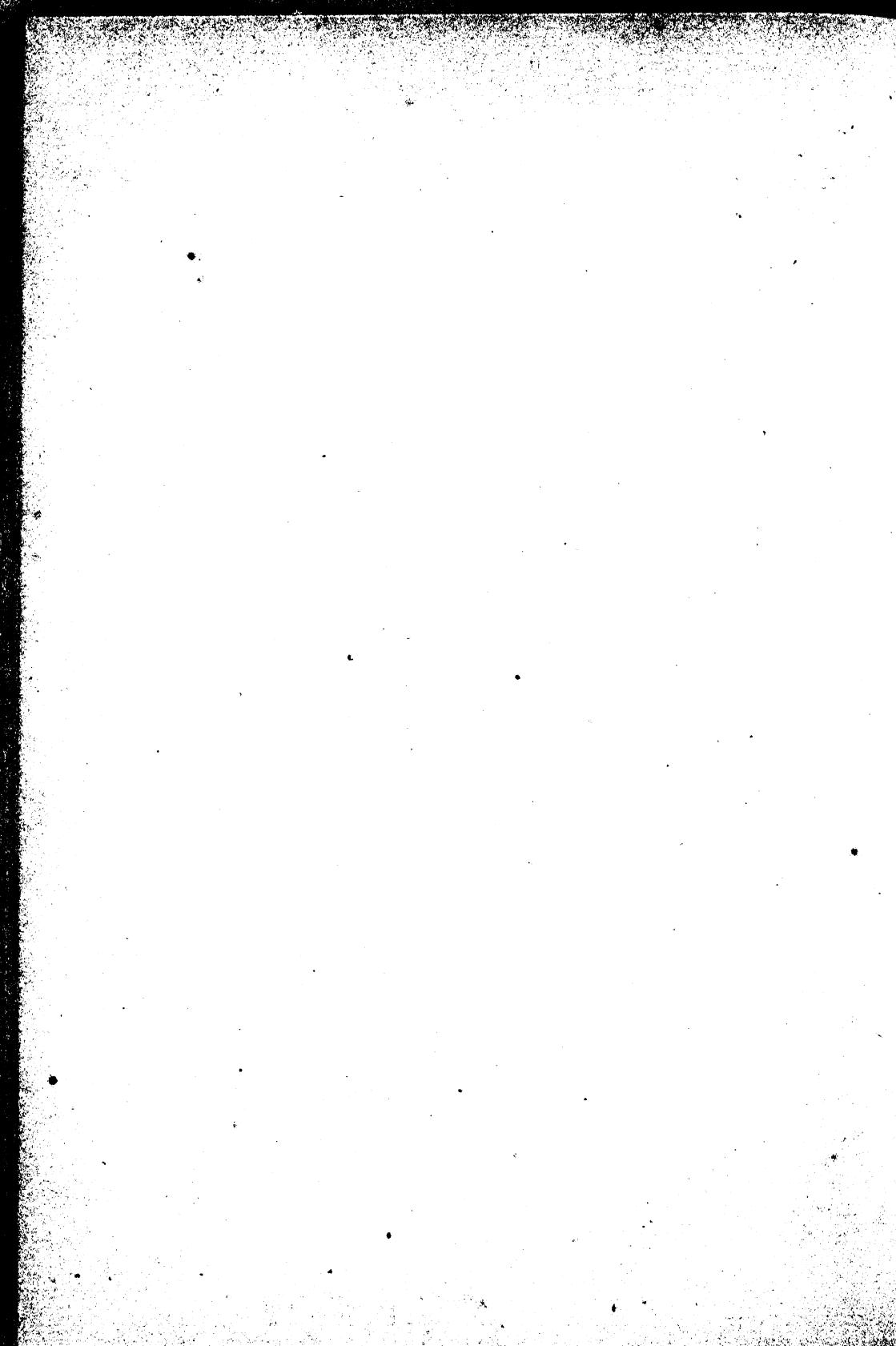
Mineral deposits.**General geological features of the Nerbudda valley.**

The mineral deposits of the Nerbudda valley have been thoroughly investigated. The results of these investigations are, as regards coal and iron, embodied in "Selections No. X. from the Records of the Government of India, Home Department." The geology of the Nerbudda valley has also been fully discussed in the memoirs of the Geological Survey. We have already noticed the great escarpments north and south of the valley. In the memoirs of the Survey these are shown to coincide with geological boundaries. Thus the table-land of Malwa and Bundelcund is formed of the sandstones known as the "Vindhyan series." In a similar manner, the line of escarpment bounding the valley in the south marks the northern limit of a series of rocks called by Indian geologists "Talcheer," "Damuda," "Mahadeva." On both sides of the valley the high ground is often occupied by basaltic trappean rocks, and the bed is often of "basalt." On the north the trap rocks spread into wide patches over the country to Bhopal, Saugor, and the west of Dumoh, to the east of which they gradually die out. On the south and south-west, trap is found in considerable areas in the valleys of Seonee and the level upland plains of Mundla, and is connected with the trap of

the Deccan. Besides the rocks already mentioned several other varieties exist. Granitic and gneiss rocks and crystalline schists are exposed in many places in the banks of the Nerbudda, in those of its tributaries, and in many other parts of the valley. They sometimes, especially in the neighbourhood of Jubbulpore, cover considerable area, and form prominent features in the scenery of this most picturesque part of India.

The Nerbudda forms the boundary between Hindustan and the Deccan. After escaping finally from the Gondwana hills few rivers have so direct a course. Its course is thenceforth nearly due east and west.

The Nerbudda is a sacred stream, and as to the Ganges so to the Nerbudda the Hindoos commit their dead. It may perhaps be regarded in modern times as even more sacred than the Ganges, for whereas it is only the bather in the Ganges whose sins are forgiven, he who simply looks at the Nerbudda is purified.



GAZETTEER

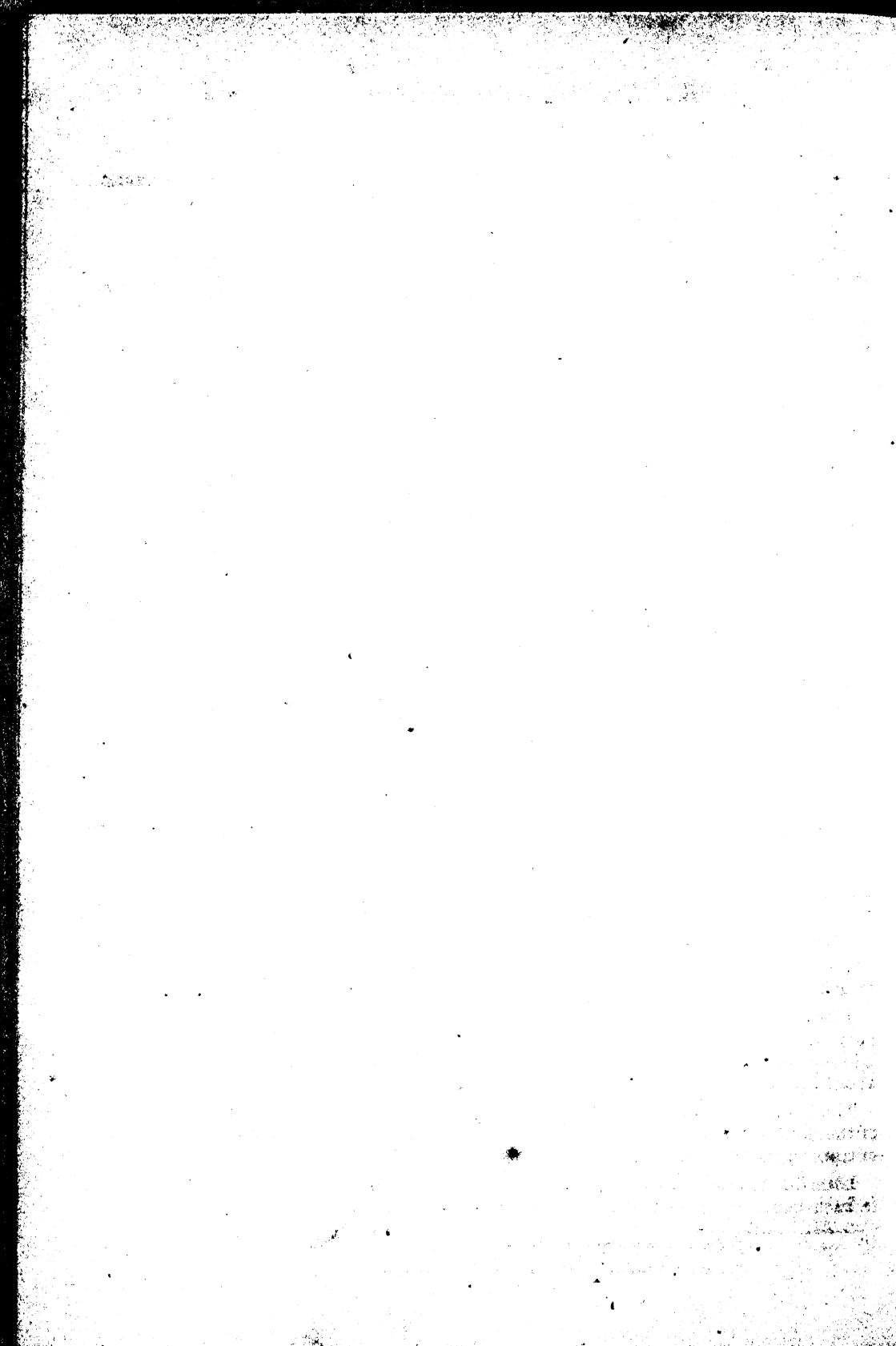
OF THE
CENTRAL PROVINCES.

PART IV. { MUNDLA.
NAGPORE.

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A S : S O C : B



MUNDLA.

MUNDLA.

The Mundla district has an elevation of from 1,600 to 3,330 feet above the level of the sea. It is bounded on the east by the Rewah territory and Belaspore, on the north by Rewah and Jubbulpore, on the west and south by Jubbulpore and Seonee. It contains an area of about 5,134 square miles, and lies between $23^{\circ} 20'$ and 22° north latitude, and between 80° and $81^{\circ} 40'$ east longitude.

Situation.

The district was formerly much larger than it is now,—the Raegurh Bichia tract having been given to Seonee, and Sohagpore made over to the Rajah of Rewah, as a reward for his conduct during the mutiny in 1857. A new district has, however, recently been formed, when Bichia will be given back to Mundla. The Zillah is divided into the fiscal divisions of Mundla and Ramgurh. The Mundla division has not yet been surveyed. But the Ramgurh tract, under the management of a Tehseeldar, has been surveyed, and its statistics will be found elsewhere. It is evident therefore that the area given above is only approximately correct. It is said traditionally that the former name of Mundla was Mahadeopooree, and that it was subsequently changed into Muhek-mutteepooree. It was so called from Muhekmar, one of the Solar dynasty. But whatever may have been its former names, the present name is derived from Mundul, a Jogi's seat, from a fancied likeness between the shape of the spot, embraced as it is by the Nerbudda, on which the town is situated, and the seats of such pious mendicants.

There is also a tradition that the place was once called Hai-Haipoor, and belonged to the kingdom of Saheswur Arjoona, whose capital was at Muheswur, opposite to Nimar, on the north bank of the Nerbudda.

This district then comprises upwards of 5,000 square miles, and consists of elevated plateaus, forests and valleys, each rising higher than the other as we proceed north-east from the Nerbudda to the Rajdhar and Chilpee ghats, which overlook the plains of the *Khalotee, and to the elevated table-lands of Ummerkuntuk and Chowradadur.

Etymology of name.

Neither Ummerkuntuk nor Rajdhar are in the district. The former belongs to Rewah, and the boundary line of the Mohimjoree nullah leaves Rajdhar three miles to the south-east.

Physical features.

The elevation of Chilpee is 2,600, of Rajdhar is 2,480, and of +Chowradadur about 3,320 feet. Thus the last plateau is of very little, if any, inferior elevation to that of Ummerkuntuk. It embraces an area of about six square miles, and overlooks the Lumnee valley.

The principal slope is to the north-west, as is evidenced by the course of the Nerbudda and its affluents. The soil is basaltic, being composed of trap, upon which rests laterite.

Laterite abounds in the Ramgurh district, which is called "Puttah," (a back-bone, ridge or plateau) by the natives. The precipitous ridge

Hills.

* For the derivation of this word, see article Seonee.

+ For the meaning of the word "Dadur," see article Seonee.

MUNDLA.

that separates Sohagpore from Ramgurh is a portion of the Meikul range. This ridge divides the basin of the Nerbudda from the basin of the Johilla and the Soane. Next to Chowradadur the highest point is probably Karinjea, which has an elevation of 2,696 feet. There are numerous isolated peaks which bear various local names. Amongst these we may mention Jigmundul near Ramgurh. This hill is covered with forest, and is the resort of the tiger, the wild boar, and the bear.

Rivers.

The principal rivers are the Johilla and Nerbudda and their affluents. The Johilla river can indeed be scarcely said to be in the Mundla district. It forms the boundary of Ramgurh and Sohagpore for a considerable portion of its course.

The affluents of the Nerbudda on the left bank are the Kurmundul nuddee, Seonee, Chikrar, Michrar, Khurmeyr, Bormeyr, Phen, Halone, and Bunjur. On the right bank the affluents are insignificant. The only one worthy of note is the Sulgee.

Valleys.

The valleys of the Halone and Bunjur have been described in the notice of the Seonee district. The only facts to be remembered are, that the district is composed of four principal upland valleys, each sending down a feeder to the Nerbudda, and that the eastern valleys have an elevation superior to those on the west. These valleys may be thus grouped:—to the west the valley of the Bunjur; in the centre the valleys of the Halone, Phen and Bormeyr; to the east the valleys of the Khurmeyr, Chikrar and Seonee; and to the north-west the valley of the Sulgee. The rapid declivity to the west and north may be best understood by comparing the following elevations:—

Chowradadur	..	..	..	..	... 3,320 feet
Shahpoorah	..	..	..	..	.. 1,687 "
Googree	..	..	..	..	.. 1,820 "
Unginiah	..	..	..	..	.. 1,770 "
Mundla	..	..	..	..	.. 1,700 "

Description of the Nerbudda valley and eastern portion of the Mundla district.

Uplands.

Major Pearson has published a report on the Mundla district south of the Nerbudda, and to that report we are indebted for much of our description. The Bormeyr, Khurmeyr, the Chikrar, and the Seonee rivers, all have their rise in the hills on the south-west corner. They are all large affluents of the Nerbudda. The two former have a north-west course, and the two latter, after flowing east, turn north. In the extreme east there are other small tributaries to the Nerbudda, the principal one being the Soneteerut, a tributary of the Seonee and the Kurmundul. The portion of the district east of the Chikrar nuddee is an exceedingly rich, and highly culturable plain. Much of the land along the Nerbudda, especially about Ramnugger, Mundla, Rameepoor, and from Moheturra to Karinjea, in the upper valley of that river, is of good soil. The western and southern sides of the district between the Khurmeyr and Bormeyr rivers present a rugged mass of bare and lofty mountains hurled together by volcanic action, the general formation being basaltic intermixed with laterite, with which the higher peaks are capped. There is a lofty range of hills between the Chikrar and Khurmeyr. The country between this range of hills and the Nerbudda forms the

MUNDLA

Talooqua of Rameepoor which contains an area of about 217 square miles. It is an undulating plain watered by numerous streams, but almost entirely destitute of trees and shrubs, and thus of a wonderfully desolate, and in the hot weather arid appearance. On the east of this volcanically formed country several fine "dadurs," or plateaus, occur, and rich valleys, especially those of Soneteerut and Kurmundul. These valleys are well watered and sheltered from the winds, and here, even in April, the streams are fringed with verdant grass.

Chowradadur overlooks the Lumnee valley, situated at the extreme eastern corner of the district, on the south side of and beyond the ghat range. It forms a sub-talooqua, and contains about 100 square miles. The valley is filled with dense jungle, and contains only two or three small Bygar villages. It is the resort of wild buffaloes, and all kinds of deer, and beasts of prey. It is entirely uncultivated, and it is thought would prove a good site for a coffee plantation.

The valleys of the Bunjur and Halone have already been described, *vide* article Seonee, Bunjur valley and sub-division Mhow.

The valley of the Bormeyr resembles the valley of the Khurmeyr and Chikrar already described. The hills are basalt, capped with laterite. Its elevation is from 200 to 2,500 feet. The climate is pleasant. The thermometer seldom during the hottest weather, even in the open air, reaches 100; and the evenings and nights in the upper part of the valley are cool.

The Googree talooqua is a portion of the lower part of the valley of the Bormeyr. It lies between Raeghur Bichia and the Nerbudda. It is more mountainous than Raeghur Bichia; but eight or nine miles north of Googree there are some fine open plains.

Mowye is a talooqua considerably to the south-east of Googree. In this talooqua are the remains of former very extensive irrigation works. About Mowye there are said to be 120 tanks. Some are of considerable size, but all are out of repair. They are attributed to a Rajah Bheem, whose lat, or pillar, or obelisk, is to be seen at Bheemlat, in the Raeghur Bichia tract. There is also in the midst of the forest near Mowye a mound of earth and burnt bricks, some 60 feet in diameter and 20 or 25 feet high. Major Pearson considers the mound to be similar to the Sanchee topes near Bhilsa; and is of opinion that the tanks are of the same date as the mound, and that they were constructed by Bhudists at a very distant period.

The Thondah talooqua lies to the west of Bichia. It formerly contained 84 villages, but only one is now said to be inhabited. It consists of low hills and elevated plains and valleys, covered with trap boulders.

The remaining talooquas south of the Nerbudda, do not here call for special mention; they will be included in the statistics given below. Of the talooquas north of the Nerbudda, the largest is Shahpoor. The country is even more hilly and less watered than that south of the Nerbudda. But there are some fine open plains, especially in the neighbourhood of Shahpoorah, at Shahpoorah, and in Niwans. The soil is as before, basaltic.

Chowradadur.

Bormeyr val-
ley.

Googreetract.

Mowye tract.

Thondah tract.

**Mundla.
Tanks.**

There are very few tanks or baolees in the Mundla district, irrigation being but little practised. The most noteworthy are those mentioned below:—

Name of place where the Tank or Baolee is situated.	Date of its construction.	Name of Maker.
Anjunea	A. D. 1640	Rajah Hirdeh Sah. Close to this tank he erected a "hunting palace" or Shikargurh. It is now a ruins.
Hirdenuggur ..	do. 1645	By Hirdeh Sah.
Benaika	do. 1650	Bhugwunt Sing Chandel, a relative of Hirdeh Sah's.
Kindree	do. 1682	Nirund Sah, who named the tank Bhundar Tal.
Kairee	do. 1690	Govind Ram Banee, farmer of the Customs duties.
Mand	do. 1730	Jeysing, Kamdar of Maharaj Sah, the ruler.
Ghaga	do. 1729	Rajah Maharaj Sah.
Ramnuggur Baolee	do. 1650	Rajah Hirdeh Sah.
Jhirreea Baolee ..	do. 1755	Kashoo Ram Pasban, and one of the Kamdars of Rajah Nizam Sah.

NOTE.—Thus in Mundla, as all over India, public works were often constructed by private individuals who invariably derived their wealth from the taxes. Wealth derived from private enterprise and not from some manipulation of the taxes did not exist.

Population.

The population of the district according to the census of 1866 is 187,669 persons, or 36 souls to the square mile. Nearly one-half of these belong to the Gond, Bygar, and other aboriginal tribes. The other classes call for no special mention, except the Râthore Telees, who are a fine industrious race.

The Gonds and Bygars seldom cultivate the same piece of land for more than three years at a time. The Bygars use no agricultural implements, wear very little clothing, and have their hair long, and made up into knots on the top of their heads. Their head-dress indeed is precisely that seen on sculptures now in the Nagpore Museum brought from Lanjee, in the Bhundara district, and ascribed to the Gonds. The Bygars are said generally to be of a darker colour than the Gonds. They build their houses either solitary or in clumps, too small to deserve the name of villages. The priests, or Bhats of

the Bygars are, of course, said to be excellent wizards. The Bygars are expert sportsmen. They are said to be divided into several tribes, the members of which do not intermarry. Children are married young, and as a natural consequence, there is no restriction in the number of wives a man may keep. They burn their dead. Women it is said are not allowed to sleep on charpoys. They offer sacrifices, pigs and red cocks, being the animals selected, and present oblations of grain to their gods, of whom, however, they have no images. It is said that though Gonds will eat from the hands of Bygars, yet Bygars will not eat from Gonds. The Gonds are remarkable for their personal strength.

Except amongst the Gonds and Bygars, Hindee is spoken throughout Mundla.

The vegetable products are the same as those mentioned in the Jubbulpore and Seonee articles. They call for no special remark. Forest produce in lac, honey and wax is exported. Honey is very cheap. Iron ore is found all over the Mundla district, especially in the eastern portions. It is worked in numerous villages by a class of people called "Aggurees." The manner of smelting the ore has been thus described by Major Pearson :—

" Into the furnace, which is a cylinder of clay, in the shape of a hollow cone open at the top, and about three feet high, the ore lumps of about the size of eggs, mixed with charcoal, (in the proportion of one to three or four) are poured, a blast being kept up in the following very primitive manner. Two cylinders of wood, each a foot in diameter, by about 3 or 4 inches deep, and closed at the bottom, are covered at the top with pieces of raw cowhide, like the head of a drum, only somewhat looser. In the centre of the cowhide, which is kept moist with water, is a hole about an inch in diameter. When it is required to work the blast, a man mounts on the top of two of these bellows, keeping the balls of his feet on the holes in the cowhide, when by working his feet up and down alternately, the air is in turn admitted into the cylinders, and driven out in a continuous blast into the furnace through a bamboo pipe, which is inserted into the side of the cylinder. The retraction of cowhide is effected by a green bamboo, one end of which is fixed in the ground, the other being bent over to form a spring, and attached by a string to the cowhide (on the same principle as a mole trap acts in England), so that as each foot is alternately lifted, the skin is drawn up, and the air rushes into the bellows through the hole, which is closed again by the man's foot as he presses it down. It is surprising how strong and continuous a blast can be kept up in this manner. By repeating the process, the iron is purified; but it seems to be sent to market in a very crude state. Limestone is abundant, and charcoal can be obtained where the iron is found."

The extensive forests about Toplah, in the Raegurh Bichia tract, have been mentioned in the article in the Seonee district. The finest forests in this part of the country are undoubtedly in the upper portion of the valleys of the Halone and the Bormeyr. The junction of the Halone and Bormeyr rivers has been selected as a suitable site for the formation of teak plantations. About Kundum and in the Niwans and

Mundla.

Language.

Natural pro-
ductions.

Forests.

Burelah talooquas there is some teak, and the forest generally in this neighbourhood will be worth preserving as supplying firewood to Jubbulpore. The reserved forests in the Mundla district are at Sawareegogur, Jugmundul, Sugra and Mircheekonah. The approximate area of the Sawareegur tract is six square miles; of Jugmundul and Sugra 20 square miles; and of Mircheekonah six square miles. The boundaries of these reserved tracts have not been defined permanently, they are merely marked by heaps of stones and posts.

Manufactures.

Prices.

The only manufacture worthy of note is that of a kind of brass or bell-metal, an amalgam of zinc and copper, called "Kass" at Mundla.

The following table will exhibit the price of grain, &c., at Mundla in July 1865 and 1866:—

ARTICLES.	Amount per rupee.					
	July 1865.			July 1866.		
	M.	S.	C.	M.	S.	C.
Wheat	15	..	..	11	8	..
Gram (Chenna)	17	..	..	14	8	..
Dall, Toor	13	8	..	11	..	..
Dall, Oord	15	..	..	11	..	..
Dall, Moong	11	..	..	8	..	..
Dall, Mussoor	13	..	..	11	..	..
Rice, 1st Sort	8	..	..	9	8	..
Rice, 2nd Sort	9	..	..	11	..	..
Rice, 3rd Sort	10	..	..	13	..	..
Jaggery (Goor)	6	4	..	4	8	..
Sugar, 1st Sort	2	8	..	2	4	..
Sugar, 2nd Sort	3	..	..	2	8	..
Salt, common	4	4	..	4	6	..
Ghee,	2	2	..	1	12	..
Bhoosa	No.	M	1600	bundles	1600	bundles.
Grass						
Kurbee						
Oil Linseed						
Cotton		3	8	..	1	4

Revenue.

For fiscal purposes the district is divided into two divisions, each managed by a Tehseeldar. The Tehseels are those of Ramgurh and Mundla. The head-quarters of the northern Tehseel was formerly at Shahpoorah.

The revenue is thus exhibited:—

	1864-65.	1865-66.
	Rs.	Rs.
Land revenue	49 453	47 507
Abkaree, Opium and Drugs	4 796	3 891
Stamp revenue	3 028	2 668
Unreserved Forest revenue .. .. .. .. .. ..	..	1 588
Educational cess	988	960
Road cess	* 988	960
Dak cess	247	287
Ostrooi .. .. .. .. .. ..	..	1 996
Miscellaneous	3 071	3 087
Total	62 571	63 884

Of the above sum Rs. 58,721 are imperial, and Rs. 4,133 are local.

A settlement for 30 years is now being made. The statistics, except for Ramgurh, are not trustworthy. The Ramgurh statistics are appended:—

Agricultural, Revenue and Statistical Return of the district of Ramgurh made up to the 1st October 1842, by Captain Robt. Wroughton, Revenue Surveyor.

Name of Talookas.	AGRICULTURAL.					REVENUE.		STATISTICS.		
	Productive return.				Average acre of present Jumma.	Houses.	Males.	Females.	Total.	
	Cultivation.	Total area.	Annual Jumma.	On total cultivation.						
	Number of villages.	Number of ploughs.	Wells.	Tanks.	Acres.	Acres.	Rs.	Annas.		
Chowbeesa	28	103½	2	..	8 494½	52 699	..	..	328 726 633 1 359
Kutoleea	28	168	..	..	8 605	47 690	..	..	366 994 960 1 954
Mookutpoer	259	953	1	..	35 807½	3 46 660	..	..	2 097 5 364 4 447 9 811
Muhudwanee	21	110	..	..	5 243	44 346	..	..	205 459 403 862
Niwans	115	714½	6	8	20 947½	1 50 128	..	..	1 243 3 016 2 570 5 586
Pirtabgurh, Sub-Talooka Lumneee	190	375	..	6	12 843½	3 76 954	2918	..	797 1 874 1 309 3 183	
Rameepoor Bijowree ..	90	480	..	9	18 473½	1 39 247	..	..	976 2 300 1 970 4 270
Shahpoorah	105	970	24	13	20 229½	1 31 825	..	..	1 596 3 840 3 542 7 382
Shahpoor, Sub-Talooka Kisheysonda ..	194	866½	4	10	27 877	3 56 225	..	..	1 631 3 627 3 232 6 859
Grand Total ..	1030	4740½	37	46	158 021½	1 641 674	2918	3½	9 239 22 200 19 066 41 266	

Division of the population of Ramghur into families of castes and cullings.

DISTRICT.	Hindoos.	Mohammedans.	Grand total.	
			(of all sects.)	of Hindu sects.
Ramghur ...	1 584 772	1 063	280 134 2671 104 229 577	9 112 86 288 145 4 14 165 0 45 24 25 21 0 9 0 86 10 15 0 0 392 122 0 9 206 33 9 239
Gond.				
Bhoomea.				
Brahmin.				
Rajput.				
Kayeth.				
Bundean.				
Lodhee.				
Sonar.				
Ahoree.				
Koondhee.				
Lohar.				
Kachee.				
Muharr.				
Puthree.				
Jogee.				
Kular.				
Nayee.				
Dhabee.				
Koombar.				
Duree.				
Choorer.				
Kewwut.				
Tumbljee.				
Gujarjeea.				
Abkar.				
Khegirwar.				
TejLeee.				
Bhur.				
Ugrees.				
Chumara.				
Mater.				
Total Hindoos.				

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Routes.

There are only five principal routes in this district :—

1.—A road from Jubbulpore to Mundla. The road is not metalled. There is a dak bungalow at Naraingunge. The stages are as follows :—

Name of stage.	Miles.	Remarks.
Babye	10½	Country hilly and jungly, roads tolerable, rivers unbridged.
Naraingunge	10½	Supplies abundant, water from the Babye. Dak buugalow, road fair, streams unbridged Naraingunge is in the Jubbulpore district.

2.—A road from Mundla through Bunnee to Seonee. This is a mere track. A partially made road between Shahpoorah and Mundla, from Jubbulpore via Shahpooree. A track to Ummerkuntuk.

The stages are as follows from Jubbulpore via Shahpoorah :—

Name of stage.	Miles.	Remarks.
Umjher..	11	Partially made and bridged, practicable for wheeled carriage.
Imlae	9	Imlae is about one mile to the south of the road. The encamping ground is good and water plentiful.
Koondum	7	Carts can be brought as far as Koondum.
Surwae	14	Roads impracticable for carts, good water can be procured.
Gooraya	9	
Shahpoorah	5	A large village, supplies procurable, encamping ground good, water plentiful.
Burgawan	5	On the banks of the Silgee.
Bikrampore	10	A very small village in the Kunbaee. Road very bad and impracticable for carts.
Rampooree	9	Here the Nerbudda is about 70 yards broad. The halting ground is on the banks of the Nerbudda. The cliff overhangs the river on the south side.
Ramgurh	9	Is the head-quarters of the Tehseel. The encamping ground is at Umurporo which is separated from Ramgurh by the Koormeyr river. The ground is good.
Sailwar	12	
Googree..	9	An excellent encamping ground on the banks of the river in a grove of Mangoe trees,
Ramnugger..	13	Here there is a fine palace of the former Mundla Rajahs on the banks of the Nerbudda. The palace is still in excellent repair, supplies readily procurable, water from the Nerbudda.
Mundla..	9	By water the distance is greater, but the traveller should go by boat. The scenery is enchanting.

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3.—The route to the Uimmerkuntuk from Mundla proceeds to Ramgurh. From thence the road is as follows:—

Name of stage.	Miles.	Remarks.
Sumnapoor	9	Cross the Koormeyr, road generally good,
Bondur...	12	Googurwahee pass at 3rd mile. The road is very stony.
Moosa Moonne ..	13	Road bad and difficult.
Karijea,	14	The banks of the Seonee river at the 3rd mile are very steep. There are several muddy nullahs, which require great care in crossing.
Uimmerkuntuk ..	15	For six miles the road is good, after that the ascent is steep and stony.

Or the march, after leaving Sumnapoor, may be to Manikpore 10 miles, Mohturra 13 miles, Roost 10 miles, and Karijea 10 miles.

4.—The fourth route is to Belaspore *via* Rajdhar. A road is now under construction as far as Rajdhar. This will be an imperial road, and it is designed to unite the railway at Jubbulpore with the proposed tramway from Raepore to Nagpore. The stages are as follows:—

Name of stage.	Miles	Rivers and Nullahs.	Remarks.
Mand	12½	Nerbudda, Bunjur and Modiary	A small place, country well cultivated and populous.
Bichia	14½	Kulodge	There are no less than 10 Nullahs that have to be crossed.
Moteenylla	15½	Purpara, Harrow, Talla	Supplies and water procurable.
Rajdhar	13½	Bynia	Supplies procurable water from the Phen. The road runs for the first 8 miles through a valley formed by hills 150 feet high.

5.—The fifth route is to Seonee *via* Bumnee. The road is a mere track, and requires no particular remark.

The trade of the Mundla district may be thus exhibited :—

Articles.	Imports from or through Belaspore and Raepore 1864-65.		Exports to or through Belaspore and Raepore 1864-65.	
	Quantity. Maunds.	Value. Rupees.	Quantity. Maunds.	Value. Rupees.
Cotton	5 875	146 875	1	32
Sugar and goor ..	11 327	34 482	129	1 935
Salt	193	1 382	365	500
Wheat	24 077	24 077	0	0
Rice	31 145	38 976	0	0
Other edible grains ..	1 857	1 867	203	270
Country cloth ..	212	909	42	3 425
Lac	3 240	32 760	5	49
Oilseeds of all descriptions ..	0	0	9	11
Tobacco	0	0	334	3 825
Silk and silk cocoons ..	0	0	0	0
Dyes	733	5 224	73	669
Wool	15	225	0	0
Country Stationery ..	0	0	142	890
Cattle	360	2 880	6 163	61 730
Sheep	658	658	0	0
Cocoanut	6 212	52 211	0	0
Miscellaneous	510	2 354	674	8 675
Metals and hardware ..	2	113	381	8 610
Ghee and oil	0	0	141	176
Spices	471	2 950	63	1 650
English piece goods ..	0	0	16	2 220
Miscellaneous European goods ..	0	0	25	1 500
TOTAL	85 879	347 934	2 476	96 167

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—
Fairs.

The principal fairs and their traffic may be thus exhibited :—

The total trade of these fairs may be thus estimated at Rs. 1,51,600. The climate of this district is very variable. The eastern and southern portions are the most elevated and most salubrious. The climate about Ramgurh has a bad reputation; fevers are very prevalent. At Karinjea, some ten miles below the plateau of Ummerkuntuk, the cold is often considerable. From October to February hoar frosts are of frequent occurrence; and in the early morning the thermometer falls below freezing point.

MUNDLA.
Climate.

The following table kept by Major Pearson will best show the comparative temperature of various places in the Mundla district during the hottest season of the year :—

Date.	Name of place.	Thermo-meter.		Average temperature.	Elevation.	Remarks.
		Maximum.	Minimum.			
April 1860 ..	Munglee	100	50	74½	...	
18th April ..	Chowradadur.	91	75	79½	3320	This elevation is probably erroneously computed. But the plateau is above 3,000 feet.
Do	Ummulkuntuk	94	62	82½	3328	This elevation is that given by Major Wroughton.
10th May ...	Gongree.	99	78	89½	1820	
23rd Do	Mundla.	101	75	89	1700	

The west and north-west portions of the Mundla district are more arid than the south and south-east plateaus. The climate to the west and north-west is also less salubrious, than that in the east and south-east. Cholera is at times prevalent, and especially at Mundla, where it commits great ravages. Generally, it must be conceded that the large quantity of uncultivated land, and the denseness of the jungle, injuriously affect the climate of a district that from its elevation would in many places be otherwise highly salubrious. The rainfall at the Sudder station was inches 50·3 in 1865-66. Thus less rain fell than in Dumoh and Seonee, and more than in Jubbulpore.

Education. Education has not made much progress in a country so scantily populated, and the majority of whose inhabitants speak a tongue that has never been systematically written. There are no Gond or Bygar schools, nor from the character of these people would it be advantageous for the Government to establish such schools. The whole population does not number more than 187,000, souls which gives only 36 to the square mile. At present there are 13 schools containing 775 scholars. Though the majority of the people are totally uneducated, yet crimes

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of violence are of rare occurrence. Cattle theft was formerly common, and burglaries were not unfrequent. But these crimes are now not rife.

Past history.

A considerable portion of the history of this district has already been included in the account of the Jubbulpore district, Jubbulpore and Mundla having belonged to one kingdom from time immemorial. That kingdom was first the Gond kingdom, the last of whose kings is said to have lived at Kuttunghee, in the Jubbulpore district. The next dynasty was that known as the Gond Rajpoot. The first of this dynasty was Jadoo Rao, who ascended the throne about A. D. 154, and the last was Ragoonath Sao, whose father was dispossessed of his kingdom by the Mahattas. Ragoonath Sao himself, and his father were both blown away from guns at Jubbulpore, on the 18th September 1857. It would be of little use here to give a barren list of the names of the various Gond Rajpoot princes, or a more detailed account of the atrocious crimes of which some of them are said to have been guilty. The most famous of these kings was undoubtedly Sungram Sing, on whom the title of Sah was bestowed by the Emperor Akbar. In the time of Sungram Sing, the Gond Rajpoot dynasty of Gurrah Mundla acquired the title of Bawungurh, from the 52 forts (or ghurs) then held by the Gond Rajpoots. They were as follows :—

1 Gunah, 2 Marooghur, 3 Cononjaghur, 4 Raeeghur, 5 Puchair, 6 Amodah, 7 Teepaghur, 8 Bagmara, 9 Purtabghur, 10 Pattenghur, 11 Ummerghur, 12 Ghunsour, 13 Chaoree, 14 Dungarthal, 15 Lopaghur, 16 Bunkaghur, 17 Kurwaghur, 18 Dewaghur, 19 Junjunghur, 20 Sonta, ghur, 21 Burgee, 22 Bowerghur, 23 Neemwaghur, 24 Futtelpore, 25 Dumoh, 26 Rehli, 27 Ghurpahra, 28 Kemlassa, 29 Etawah, 30 Rahut-ghur, 31 Baree, 32 Chokee, 33 Gowaree, 34 Bhopal, 35 Koorwahee, 36 Bhorasso, 37 Raeesain, 38 Karobag, 39 Mukrace, 40 Goorjamur, 41 Deoree, 42 Punagurh, 43 Ghurrahkotah, 44 Shahgurh, 45 Dhamonee, 46 Hutta, 47 Murreeah, 48 Pamyeet, 49 Shanuggur Bungurha Deoree, 50 Oputghur, 51 Asmadghur, and 52 Singorghur.

So large a territory necessarily excited the cupidity of the Mahomedans. Akbar, as we have already seen in our notice of the history of Jubbulpore, was unable to wrest any considerable portion of the territory from Sungram Sah, but the regency of the Ranee Doorgawuttee, who married a son of Sungram Sah, afforded him an opportunity which he did not let slip. On some trifling pretext he made war on Doorgawuttee, and captured the fort in which she had taken refuge. She killed herself to avoid getting into the hands of her pursuers. It was in the time of Ranee Doorgawuttee that the Bajpais rose into notice. She bestowed the name of "Bajpai" on her dewan Surhai Pathuck. The descendants of this man still survive, and are pensioners of the British Government. They are said to have originally come from Benares. To Doorgawuttee succeeded Chundur Sah, the brother of her husband, who after giving some trouble to the Lieutenants of the Delhi Emperor, was acknowledged ruler on his surrender of 10 of the 52 forts above mentioned to the Mahomedans.

The seat of the government was then transferred from Singogurh to Chowragurh, which fortress however fell into the hands of the Boondela Chiefs, who were instigated by the Emperor Jehangeer to attack the Gond Rajpoot dynasty. Prem Narrain, the reigning sovereign, was slain. It may be as well to mention here, that the Bajpais of Mundla assert that it was one of their family that obtained for Chundur Sah, the kingdom of his ancestors. This is problematical. Chundur Sah, when his brother's wife Doorgawuttee, then regent of the kingdom, died, was at Chaada. He appears to have allied himself with other chieftains, and to have recovered his dominions by the forcible expulsion of the Mahomedans, from Singogurh, and not by their retirement in obedience to an order obtained from the Emperor of Delhi, by one of the Bajpais. This happened about A. D. 1567. At the time of Prem Narrain's death, his son Hirdey Sah was living at Delhi. On the news of his father's death, and having been informed that Jehangeer intended to compel him to become a Mahomedan, he fled from the Court. In his flight he was accompanied by a slave girl Soonder Deb, and a Brahmin named Kamdo Bajpai. On his arrival in Gonlwana, Hirdey Sah remained some time in concealment, but eventually as has been narrated in the article on the Seonee district, he, by the help of the celebrated Rajah of Deogurh, Bukht Boolund, drove out the usurping Boondelas. Hirdey Sah ceded a strip of territory below the Ghats and the Kuttunghee valley with Seonee and Chupariah to Bukht Boolund. He then removed his capital to Ramnugger, and built the palace that there still exists. Henceforth the history of Mundla and the history of her rulers are same. The palace of Ramnugger was erected early in the 17th century about 1625 A. D. Hirdey Sah it is said had one hundred wives and concubines; it is certain that he left 18 sons; all his wives are said to have burned themselves in his funeral pyre. In commemoration of this suttee, a monument was erected, which still exists. This occurred A. D. 1665. The next ruler of any note was Nirund Sah. He succeeded to the throne in A. D. 1679 when only 12 years of age. His father had been murdered at the instigation of his great uncle Harree Sing, an illegitimate son of Hirdey Sah, and this man attempted to dispossess Nirund Sah. And here we must let the native historian tell his own tale. "Nirund Sah fled to Ruttunpore. One night as he was sleeping near a tank, he dreamt that in it he should find an image of Bhowany, possessed of which he might recover his kingdom." Search was made, the image found, and Nirund Sah triumphant returned to his capital, defeated the usurper, removed the seat of his government to Mundla, where he erected a temple over the very image of Rajrajeswuri. He was greatly assisted in his efforts against the usurper by the Zamindar of Ramgurh. In return for these services Nirund Sah bestowed upon the ancestor of the present Talooqdar of Ramgurh, the title of rajah, and a large extent of territory at an annual quit rent of 3,000 rupees. This happened about A. D. 1680. Nirund Sah built the wall round Mundla, strengthened it with bastions, erected a strong fort, and built within its walls a palace. The fort and palace are now in ruins. According to other native accounts, Nirund Sah owed his kingdom to Gungadur Rao Bajpai, who having procured help from the Punjabs and Orchha Boondelas, dispossessed the son of Hurree Sing. But the

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Past history.
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MUNDLA.**Past history**
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Mundla kingdom had now entered upon evil days, for whilst the Gond Rajpoot dynasty had been weakened by the Mahomedans, and had lost all their territory in Dumoh and Singor, the Mahrattas now appeared on the field, and threatened the extinction of the dynasty itself. The two sons of Pehar Sing, the son of Hurree Sing, whose expulsion from Gurha we have recorded, retired after the defeat of their father, to Delhi, and there became Mussulmans and assumed the names of Abdool Rahinan and Abdool Hajee. They appear to have obtained aid from Delhi, and to have succeeded in taking Gurha. They then entered into negotiations with the Peishwa, Bajee Rao the 1st, whose troops were at Hoshungabad, and agreed to pay six lakhs of rupees if he would assist them in obtaining possession of the whole of the Mundla kingdom. But they were out-maneuvred by the Bajpaies, who obtained the assistance of the Mahratta General, and drove out the brothers from Gurha. For this assistance Nirund Sah promised six lakhs of rupees. Nirund Sah died in 1727, and was succeeded by his son Maharaj Sah. He appears to have neglected to pay the promised six lakhs. Balajee Bajee Rao, commonly known by the sobriquet of Nana Sahib, accordingly appeared at Mundla, was by an act of treachery admitted into the town, and after a severe struggle, succeeded in capturing the fort, and killed the Rajah Maharaj Sah in a sally which that prince made with a few resolute followers. The gate at which the Mahrattas had entered the town, was thenceforth named the Futteh Derwaza. Maharaj Sah had four sons. The eldest, Suraj Sah, was confirmed rajah on promising Balajee Bajee Rao, a yearly tribute of four lakhs of rupees. Suraj Sah ascended the throne about A. D. 1741, and reigned for only seven years. He left two sons, Mohun Sing and Durjun Sah. Mohun Sing was incapacitated by illegitimacy, and Durjun Sah succeeded in A. D. 1748. After a short reign of six months he was murdered by his uncle Nizam Sah. Mohun Sing was celebrated for his personal strength, and Nizam Sah lived in perpetual dread. At length by some treachery Mohun Sing was seized, sewn up in a bag, and thrown into the Nerbudda. This was done secretly by Nizam Sah, who was afraid of the popularity of Mohun Sing. Nizam Sah, after such notorious crimes, found it necessary to lead a life of charity. He greatly improved the annual fair at Poorwah, at the confluence of the Bunjur and the Nerbudda. He died in A. D. 1776 after a reign of 27 years. After the death of Nizam Sah, there were three rival claimants for the throne,—an imposter who personated Mohun Sing; Soomer Sah, an illegitimate son of Nizam Sah; and Mohun Sah, one of the grandsons of Maharaj Sah, being a son of Dhun Sing. The pretender was soon disposed of. He was invited into the city, and being unable to name some of the principal places, his untruth was discovered, and he was decapitated. The Bajpaies then determined to obtain the government for themselves. They alleged that Nurhur Sah was half witted, and that Soomer Sah his cousin was illegitimate. This so incensed Bilas Koer, the eldest of the late Rajah's surviving wives, that she determined to extirpate the Bajpaies.

The commander of the forces at Khairee, a village to the east of Mundla, where the cavalry lines were, was Nuwab Sahabut Khan, an inhabitant of Seonee Chupparah. Under orders from Ranee

Bilas Koer, he advanced on the town. The Bajpais defended themselves with great bravery, but being hopeless of success, and the townspeople not assisting them, they themselves killed all their wives and children, and all except two or three fell fighting. 152 persons are said to have been slaughtered. With the consent of Bilas Koer, Nurhur Sah was then placed on the Musnud in A. D. 1776. After the lapse of five years, at the instigation of Bilas Koer, Soomer Sah proceeded to Saugor, and asked aid from the Mahratta Ragoonath Rao. This he granted on a promise of a large present payment, and an annual tribute of two lakhs. The leaders of the expedition were Beesajee and Moorajee. Soomer Sah was placed on the throne, and Nurhur Sah was taken to Saugor. This occurred in A. D. 1781, Soomer Sah then caused Bilas Koer to be assassinated. Soomer Sah, even though he sold all his jewels, could not satisfy the rapacity of the Mahrattas, and when Ragoonath Rao heard of the assassination of Bilas Koer, and the dismissal of her favourite Sahabut Khan, he again sent Beesajee to Jubbulpore to look after his interests. Beesajee invited Soomer Sah to meet him at Jubbulpore. This he did, and was accompanied by Gungajee Gosaen in command of a small detachment of troops. Soomer Sah was seized, and sent off to Saugor, and orders were sent to Beesajee's Lieutenant at Mundla, Moorajee, to seize that town. In the meantime the Gosaen surprised the camp of Beesajee, and proclaimed Nurhur Sah. But a second force was sent from Saugor under the command of Luchmun Bapoo, and Gungajee was defeated at Koonce Ghat near Patun, about 14 miles from Jubbulpore. Nurhur Sah and the Gosaen were both captured. The latter was dragged to death by an elephant in the streets of Saugor, and Nurhur Sah was confined in the fort of Khorae, where he died. Soomer Sah himself was treated with some kindness, and was honorably employed at Saugor, to which place he called his family. There he had a son born named Sunker Sah. Soomer Sah was killed in an attack on Deoree. Mundla was then annexed to the dominion of the Saugor Mahrattas, and Moorajee was made the first Soobadar, and stationed at Jubbulpore in 1785. He was allowed a deputy at Mundla named Gopal Rao. We have thus arrived at the extinction of the Gond Rajpoot kingdom of Gurha Mundla. The principal historical facts may be thus briefly recapitulated:—"From Jadoo Rao to Urjoon Sing, 45 rajahs had reigned over the territory, then but of a very limited extent, viz., from A. D. 155 to A. D. 1454, or during a period of 1,300 years. From the accession of Sungram Sah, son of Urjoon Sing, and the first prince bearing the title of Sah, to Nurhur and Soomer, the last Sahs, a period of 325 years intervened (from A. D. 1454 to A. D. 1779), during which time 15 rajahs reigned over a much larger territory than had been acquired by the first line of rulers, of which in that interval out of 53 pergunnahs (including Bichia,) it is related that but 12 were lost, viz., ten transferred to the Delhi Government and two handed over to Bukht Boolund, the Rajah of Deogurh. The seat of Government, it will have been seen, was during the entire period of 1625 years, at four different places, viz., first, at Gurra (which was that of the original Gond kings); 2ndly, at Singorghur; 3rdly, at Chawmagurh; 4thly at Ramnugger; and lastly, at Mundla. The interruptions which occurred during the second period of 325 years were,

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Part history.
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namely, 1st, the conquest of the territory during the regency of the Ranees Doorgawuttee, by the forces of the Delhi king, (Akhbar Shah), and the reign of his Viceroy Harah A. D. 1567, from which year the supremacy of the Emperor of Delhi was acknowledged, and ten pergunnahs transferred to him; 2ndly, the usurpation of the Boondelaf chieftains directed by the Emperor Jelhangeer (A. D. 1615 to 1625); and their subsequent expulsion by Hirdey Sah aided by Bukht Boulund, who received two pergunnahs in recognition of the service; 3rdly, the usurpation by Hurree Sing, grand-uncle of Nirund Sah, backed by troops from Delhi about A. D. 1680-81; 4thly, the conquest of Mundla by the Peishwa, Balajee Rao, and the territory made tributary to Poona, A. D. 1742; 5thly, tributary to Ragoonath Rao A. D. 1779, and finally, added to Saugor. Moorajee died A. D. 1795, and was succeeded by Biswasrao his son. At this time the Peishwa granted the territory to Rughojee Bhonslah, Rajah of Berar. Saugor was plundered by the celebrated Pindarree freebooter Ameer Khan of Tonk, and Rughojee Rao was compelled to implore aid from the Bhonslah Rajah. This was granted, and in gratitude Rughojee Rao peaceably ceded that territory to the Berar Rajah whose head-quarters were then at Nagpore, which otherwise he probably would not have surrendered without a struggle. This happened in 1799. Two years afterwards the Bhonslah Rajah separated the charge of Mundla from that of Jubbulpore. In 18 years no less than 12 Soobadars were appointed to this charge, ten of them having independent control, subject only to orders from Nagpore, and two being subject to the Soobadar of Jubbulpore. In 1809 Narayea Rao, then Soobadar of Jubbulpore, was driven from his post by the ubiquitous Ameer Khan, the Pindarree, who proclaimed Sunker Sah. But the Pindarees were eventually defeated by a large force sent from Nagpore at Jahura in 1810, and in 1817 the territory of Mundla and Jubbulpore was ceded to the British. Mundla was not taken possession of without a struggle. General Marshall marched against the place. The town was taken by storm, and it first surrendered on the 27th of April 1818. The management of the Mundla pergunnahs was then placed under the Deputy Commissioner of Seonee. Ramgurh and Sohagpore were managed from Jubbulpore, a Deputy Commissioner being stationed at Sohagpore. This arrangement remained in force till A. D. 1847, when it was for a time made a separate charge. The old arrangement was then resorted to, until finally in 1853, at the recommendation of Mr. Bushby, Sohagpore, Mundla, and Ramgurh were placed under a Deputy Commissioner. A Tehseeldar was appointed at Shahpoorah. In 1856 the office of the Deputy Collector of Sohagpore was abolished. In 1857 the Rajah of Ramgurh and the Thakoors of Sohagpore and Shahpoor broke into open rebellion, and Sunker Lal and his sons were detected in a treacherous correspondence with the 52nd B. N. I. They were both apprehended and sentenced to be blown away from guns. The execution was duly carried out. Sunker Lal left a grandson who was carried off by the mutinous troops.

The antiquities of the district will be described under the places where they exist. It may be as well to mention here that in

places in the Mundla district temples of very great age are said to exist in the very heart of the jungle. They are found principally in the Ramgurh district, and have not yet been accurately described.

MUNDLA
Antiquities

Mundla is the principal place of the district of the same name. It is situated in latitude $22^{\circ} 43'$, longitude $80^{\circ} 35'$, and has an elevation of 1,770 feet. It is 59 miles south-east from Jubbulpore, and 635 north-east from Bombay, and 67 from Mhow and Jubbulpore. The derivation of the name has been already given. The town is naturally one of some strength, being surrounded on three sides by the Nerbudda. It now contains a population of about 5,000, and the number of houses is estimated at 1,200. Only about 50 are built of stone or bricks, some 150 are made of mud, and the remainder of "wattle and dab." The handsome ghats, rivers, and temples will be mentioned. The modern buildings are as described. The town was first peopled by Hirdey Sah, A. D. 1633, and in A. D. 1680 Rajah Nirund Sah made it the seat of his government. On the side not protected by the river, he built a strong wall with bastions and gates, and cut a deep ditch from bend to bend of the river. The ditch was so constructed that it could be flooded at will. He also erected a fort on a piece of ground having the river on three sides, and separated from the town by a deep ditch. Within the fort he built a large palace. He also constructed a temple, a ghat and several houses for the residence of the nobility. About A. D. 1739 Mundla was taken by Peishwa Balajee Bajee Rao, who named the gate on the Jubbulpore road where he entered the town the "Futteh Derwaza." In 1818 when the place was taken by General Marshall, the fort and palace were found in a very dilapidated state, and were partially destroyed. A house built by Sumbhojee Rao, the last Soobadar of the Nagpore Mahrattas, was spared and used as a Tchseelee, and a portion as a jail for short term convicts. The streets of the town are narrow, but from a distance the temples and ghats give the place a picturesque appearance. There are three temples inside the fort. The first temple is dedicated to Raj Rajeshwari Bhawani, and was built by Nirund Sah. The second temple was built by Rajah Suraj Sah in A. D. 1743, and is dedicated to Shrikrishn. The third temple was built by Bapu Bulwunt alias Antojee, who was the first Tchseeldar of Mundla. There are in all 37 ghats. The earliest was built in 1680, and the latest in 1858.

The exports and imports of the town are inconsiderable. The general trade returns of the district have already been given.

Trade.

The solitary manufacture of household utensils from an alloy of zinc and copper has been already mentioned, and the rude smelting furnaces worked by the Aggurees have been described. The usual coarse cotton cloths are manufactured. The principal merchants are Moonna Lal Chowdree (Kallar), Hazaree Modee, Khooshal Chund (of Jubbulpore), Permanund Chowdree and Mohun Lal. By descent, the Bajpais are now the most respectable of the inhabitants. The Talooqdars of Ramgurh, Googree and Shahpoor will be mentioned in the accounts of these places. Luchmee Persad of Googree is the only Honorary Magis-

Manufactures

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trate in this district. The public buildings are insignificant, with the exception of the Cutcherry ; the ghats and temples have already been described.

Climate.

The climate of Mundla is insalubrious. In the autumn especially, fevers, agues, and dysentery abound ; in the hot weather cholera visits the station. There is a school for boys, and one for girls.

Fairs.

The four principal fairs and their statistics have already been enumerated. One of them is held in November, near the north-west corner of the town in the neighbourhood of the temple erected by one of the nobles of Nirund Sah in A. D. 1717. The Nerbudda here is supposed by the superstitious to possess mysterious purifying powers. For the statistics of this fair, see the general statement already mentioned.

Benaika.

Benaika is a comparatively large and ancient village. It possesses a tank constructed in 1650 by a relative of the Rajah Hirdey Sah, who first made Ramnugger his capital.

Boormeyr river.

The Boormeyr river rises 30 miles to the south-west of Ummerkuntuk. Before its junction with the Nerbudda at Deogaon in the Singhapore talooqa it receives the Halone river at Googree. It has a devious but generally westerly course ; and to its junction with the Nerbudda is about 100 miles long.

Bumnee.

Bumnee is a large village in the Mundla district. It is on the direct road to Seonee, and situated in the most populous part of the Deputy Commissionership. The inhabitants are chiefly agricultural. A large number obtain their living by carrying grain and salt, to and from Seonee and Mundla, and in other directions. Here are large droves of pack bullocks. There is a school and a police station. The town duties in 1864-65 amounted to Rs. 400.

Chikrar.

The Chikrar, or Chakrar river rises in a lofty plateau, some thirty miles to the south-west of Ummerkuntuk. It has a due northerly course, and cannot to its junction with the Nerbudda be more than 40 miles in length.

Chowradadur.

Chowradadur is a plateau of but little inferior elevation to Ummerkuntuk itself. It overlooks the valley of Lumnee, supposed to be suitable for coffee plantations. The cold on the plateau is often considerable, though the valley is sheltered. The area of the entire plateau is about six square miles. It is probably one of the most favourable spots for an European settler in the whole of the Mundla district.

Chutterpoor.

Chutterpoor is a village not far from Ramnugger, said to have been founded by Chutter Sah in A. D. 1670.

Geogree.

Googree is a picturesque spot at the junction of the Boormeyr and the Halone. The village itself is but small, but there is an excellent camping ground on the banks of the river under a grove of mango trees. The estate comprising 98 villages was given to Luchmee Pershad, Brahmin, who behaved very well in the disturbances of 1857-58. He was also presented with a sword of honour.

Hirdenugger is a large and populous village. It was founded by the Rajah Hirdey Sah about A. D. 1644. He also constructed the tank at this place. There is an annual fair on the banks of the Bunjur. In 1864-65 the number of persons who visited the fair was 6,000; the value of the merchandize brought was Rs. 58,600; and the value of that sold was Rs. 38,100.

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Hirdenugger.

Kairee is an ancient village in the immediate neighbourhood of Mundla. It is situated on the spot where the Gond Rajahs formerly stationed the small band of cavalry they kept in their pay, either to overawe the town of Mundla, or to repress the invasions of Gonds and latterly of Pindarrees. From this place the Mussulman head of the cavalry moved in A. D. 1776 into the town to slaughter all the Bajpais. There is a tank that was constructed in 1690 by Govind Ram Banee.

Kairee.

Maharajpore.

Maharajpore is a large and populous village immediately opposite to Mundla, at the confluence of the Nerbudda and Bunjur. Its ancient name is said to have been Brahmaputra. But in 1737 A. D. Rajah Maharaj Sah founded the present village, and its name was then altered to Maharajpore. There are five temples. They are all comparatively modern buildings. The best was recently built by Moonna Lal Chowdree. There is a good school, and a fair school-house. The octroi amounted in 1864-65 to Rs. 116. An annual fair is held opposite to Maharajpore, on the right bank of Bunjur, at its confluence with the Nerbudda at the village of Poorwah.

Mudpooree.

Mudpooree is a village of considerable sanctity. It is named after Mudkoor Sah, who founded the place in A. D. 1000. Here there is an annual fair. In 1864-65 the number of persons who visited the fair was 5,000; the merchandize brought was Rs. 31,000; and the amount sold was Rs. 18,000. The fair is rather for religious purposes than for trade. It is held in honour of Mahadeo. Mudkoor Sah, who instituted this fair, was the murderer of his father. He also was the founder of Chowraghur.

The Nerbudda River.

The Nerbudda rises in Ummekuntuk, on the borders of the Mundla district. It has an elevation of about 3,300 feet at its source. Where it leaves the district, its elevation is certainly less than 1,800 feet. Thus during a course of 150 miles it falls 1,500 feet, or 10 feet per mile. This will show the impetuous character of the stream. Near its source two falls occur. They are the Kupil Dhara and Doodh Dhara falls. The first is of 70 feet. After this fall the Nerbudda enters upon its first and highest basin which extends as far as Mohturra, and consists of a broad plain of considerable elevation, broken only by one hill at Rotta. Thence the current of the stream is once more narrow, tortuous, and impeded by rocks until Ramnugger is reached. From Ramnugger to Mundla the stream, though swift, is broad and gentle. It winds amongst overhanging banks covered with trees that dip their boughs into the water. Opposite to Mundla it receives the river Bunjur, one of its most considerable affluents. It has then already received the Sulgee, the Chikrar, the Koormeyr, the Seonee Nuddee, and the Hormeyr. The basin of the Nerbudda is here wide and the soil fertile, but it soon narrows and shortly enters into a deep gorge

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which it only quits to pass through the pass of the marble rocks near Jubbulpore. Opposite to Mundla the stream is broad and in the rains imposing. Just below the town rapids occur, and rocks some twenty feet above the level of the stream in the hot weather. Over these in the rains the stream rushes with irresistible force. The only places of note in the Mundla district on the borders of the stream, are Maharajpore, Mundla and Ramnugger. For a complete account of this stream, *vide* article Nerbudda.

Poorwah.

Poorwah is a village opposite to Mundla and Maharajpore. It is separated from Maharajpore by the Bunjur, and from Mundla by the Nerbudda, it is therefore at the confluence of these two streams. Here there is an annual fair. The fair was celebrated by Nizam Sah in A. D. 1751. There is a legend connected with this fair. The myth is, that the place was anciently called Vishnupoor, it having been so called from Vishnu who placed a Mahadeo under an Oomur tree. To this shrine pilgrims resorted. It was afterwards called Sookpoor, from Sookdeo, a saint who resided on the spot. The fair now lasts for a week. The statistics of this fair for 1864-65 are entered below:—

Poorwah	Name of the place.	Month during which held.	Estimated value of property brought to the fair.				Estimated value of property sold at the fair.				
			Estimated population attending the fair.	European goods of all kinds.	Country manufactures and raw produce.	Horses.	Other cattle and sheep.	Other articles.	European goods of all kinds.	Country manufacture and raw produce.	Horses.
		November 1864	10 000	Rs. 40 000	Rs. 20 000	No. 1 000	20 000	Rs. 25 000	Rs. 15 000	Rs. 500	No. 15 000
						No. 1 000	No. 25 000				
						Rs. 25 000	Rs. 15 000				
								No. 15 000			
									Rs. 15 000		

Pindraee.

Pindraee is a comparatively large village. There is here a weekly market. The population are chiefly Bunneahs. They have built a temple.

Phen river.

The Phen river is the boundary between the Raigurh Bichia tract and Mundla proper. It rises in the Chilpee ghat, and flows into the Boormeyr.

Ramgurh.

Ramgurh is situated on a rocky eminence, at whose base flows the Koormeyr, and separates Ramgurh from the village of Umerpore. The encamping ground is at the latter place. In A. D. 1680 the whole of the pergunnah was bestowed, together with the title of Rajah, on the Thakoor of Ramgurh by Rajah Nirund Sah, who had recovered his ancestral dominions, from which he had been expelled by his cousin, assisted by a body of Mahomedan troops from Delhi, mainly through the treachery of the Thakoor. The quit rent paid by the Thakoor was Rs. 1000/-

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3,500 Rs. which was the sum paid when the British acquired the country in 1818. This title of Rajah and the Talooqdaree were enjoyed for nearly two centuries by the descendants of the first rajah. At this time Rajah Luchmun Sing died, leaving a son, Bikramajeet, only six years of age. Rajah Bikramajeet went mad, and his estate was managed for a time by the Court of Wards ; but subsequently the Ranee, the wife of Bikramajeet, obtained the management of the estate on behalf of her son Aman Sing. But she managed the estate badly, the rajah was involved in debt, and eventually the estate was again placed under official control. This happened in 1854. Under this control after the Government demand of 3,500 rupees had been settled, a sum was set apart for the maintenance of the Rajah's family, and the surplus went to liquidate debt. The debt was all cleared off in 1857, when the Ranee, on the execution of Rajah Shunker Sah at Jubbulpore in 1857, broke into rebellion, drove the officials from Ramgurh, and seized the place in the name of her son. Eventually a small force was sent against her. She behaved with great bravery, and is commonly reported to have headed her own troops in several skirmishes, but was eventually compelled to flee to less accessible parts of the district. She was pursued, but the pursuit growing warm, she dismounted her horse, seized a sword from an attendant, and plunged it into her stomach. She was carried into the victor's camp where she was attended by a surgeon. But skill was unavailing, and she expired. After her death, the insane rajah and his two sons surrendered themselves. As a punishment for their rebellion they were deprived of the title of Rajah and of their Talooqdaree, a stipend being assigned to them for their support.

Ramgurh is now the head-quarters of a Tehseel. There is a Police station and a school. The place is not remarkable, but its history is interesting. The climate of the whole district is unhealthy, and fevers abound.

Ramnugger is situated at one of the most beautiful spots in the whole of the Mundla district. Here the Nerbudda makes a bend; and from where the present palace stands, the most enchanting views of both branches of the river are obtained.

Ramnugger.

Hirdeh Sah's father was with nearly all his family massacred by the Boondelas at Chowragurh in A. D. 1627. In consequence of the incidents of this massacre, and probably to be at a distance from the Mahomedans, and his powerful neighbour Bukht Boolund, Hirdeh Sah retired to Ramnugger, where he built the palace as it now stands about A. D. 1633. This place then became the capital of the Gurra Mundla kingdom. It is situated about ten miles to the eastward of Mundla. The river is here broad and deep, and at all seasons of the year navigable as far as Mundla. Ramnugger is supposed to have at one time been a place of considerable size. There still exists a "baolee" which is now four miles to the east of the palace. This baolee is represented to have then been in the heart of the town. The ruins are also very extensive, particularly those of a palace said to have been built by Bhugwunt Rao, the Prime Minister of Hirdeh Sah. It is said to have been of five stories, and to have overtopped the king's

palace. The king accordingly ordered that its walls should be lowered. Rajah Hirdeh Sah had a large seraglio of 100 wives. The palace, which is quadrangular in shape, and built round an open courtyard, is divided into numberless small rooms, and long narrow labyrinthine passages. In the centre of the open court is a receptacle for water, where once fountains played. To retain the water in this reservoir a bund was made in the river almost opposite to the palace. Remains of this kind still exist. Rajah Hirdeh Sah caused a Sanscrit inscription in verse to be cut on a massive block of stone. This inscription sets forth the names of his ancestors, and the dates of their respective reigns from A. D. 158 to his own time. The composer of the verses was Jai Govind Bajpaie. The stone with the inscription is now near a small temple in the immediate neighbourhood of the palace of Ramnugger. On the death of Rajah Hirdeh Sah, all his wives performed "suttee," and his son erected a monument over their remains. Ramnugger remained the seat of government for eight rulers. The last ruler who resided there was shot, it is said, with a poisoned arrow, by a man hired by an illegitimate son of Hirdeh Sah. Rajah Nirund Sah was the ruler who removed the seat of government to Mundla. Ramnugger is not now in any way famous, save for the extensive ruins in the neighbourhood, and the beautiful site, which, however man and his works may change and decay, still remains in all its natural beauty.

Shahpore.

Shahpore is a large village in the Mundla district in the Ramgurh Tehseel. It lies a little off the direct route between Shahpore and Ramgurh, but is on the direct road between that place and Rewah. It is about 18 miles north by east of Ramgurh; latitude 23° 3', longitude 81° 3'. The talooquas of Shahpore and Shabpoorah were formerly held in talooqdaree. The first talooqdar was Duriao Sing, Lodhee, who married a daughter of a certain Ramgurh rajah named Dhun Sing. He was succeeded in the talooq, which comprised 265 villages, by Bulbhudder Sing. To him succeeded Bije Sing, who does not appear to have managed the estate with due economy. He became involved in debt, and his lands were accordingly managed by Government. In 1857 this man joined the rebels, and his estate was sequestrated; a small monthly sum of money being paid for his maintenance. He died in 1863. He has one surviving brother, Bulbhudder Sing.

Shahpoorah.

Shahpoorah, as well as the former place, originally belonged to Bije Sing. The town of Shahpoorah is a mere assemblage of huts. There is a Police station and a school house. There is a small tank at Shahpoorah, the fish of which are considered sacred. There is a partially made road between Jubbulpore and Shahpoorah. Shahpoorah is about 45 miles east of Jubbulpore, and 25 miles north-west of Ramgurh. It is on the direct road between Sohagpore and Jubbulpore.

Sulgee.

The Sulgee is an unimportant affluent on the right bank of the Nerbudda. It rises on the southern borders of Talooqua Singwarah, in the Sohagpore district belonging to Rewah. It has a south-westerly course, and enters the Nerbudda in the Niwads Talooqa.

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NAGPORE.*C O N T E N T S.**

SECTION. I. General description of the country.

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* This article has been written throughout by Mr. Low, Deputy Commissioner of Nagpore, who acknowledges the assistance he has received from Messrs. Nicholls, Macdiougall, and Munton, his subordinates. The arrangement of subjects differs somewhat from that of foregoing articles. Mr. M. Low's paper is so complete as a whole that it has been adopted in its original form.

SECTION I:
General de-
scription of
the country.

The Nagpore district, as at present constituted, is bounded on the north-west, by a short stretch of the river Wurdah ; on the north, by the districts of Chindwara and Seonee ; and on the east, by the district of Bhundara. A small portion of the Chanda district adjoins its extreme southern frontier ; and throughout its whole length, from north-east to south-east, it is bounded by the new district of Wurdah. Thus, with the exception of the short frontier on the Wurdah river, beyond which lies East Berar, it is entirely enclosed by other districts belonging to the Central Provinces ; and is situated in the south-west portion of the extensive territory now subject to that Administration. It lies immediately below the great table-land of the Sautpooras ; it comprises the central portion of the Upper Doab between the Wyngunga and the Wurdah, and is identical with the most important part of that tract of country which was known in by-gone days as "Deogurh below the ghats." Nagpore, the chief town, and the present seat of the Administration of the Central Provinces, is situated nearly in the centre of the district, in north latitude $21^{\circ} 9'$ and east longitude $79^{\circ} 11'$.

The outline of the district is uneven, but in general terms, its shape may be called triangular. The apex of the triangle would be the short reach of the Wurdah river in the north-west ; and the base, the boundary line of Bhundara on the east ; while the other two sides would be formed by the Sautpoora hills on the north, and the Wurdah district boundary on the south-east. The extreme length of the district from east to west is 80 miles, and its extreme breadth from north to south 78 miles. Its total area is 2,356,809 acres, or 3,682 square miles, being just a little smaller than the East and West Ridings of Yorkshire.

For revenue and administrative purposes it is divided into four subdivisions or Tehseelees. These Tehseelees are Nagpore, Katole, Ramtek, and Oomrair. The Nagpore Tehseel may be said to comprise the central and south-western parts of the district. The north-western portion belongs to Katole, the north and north-eastern to Ramtek, the south and south-eastern to Oomrair.

The entire district, as thus comprised, possesses great varieties of surface and scenery. In the succeeding sections an attempt will be made to describe the different soils and geological formations, the different natural and agricultural products. We shall here endeavour merely to present a general sketch of the external appearance of the country.

Before describing the hill tracts, the plains, and the rivers, each in their turn it will be well to turn for a moment to the map, in order to see the local disposition, according to which these features of the country are severally grouped. It will be found, that the hill ranges form, so to speak, the skeleton. The plain country is as it were the body, the whole of which is knit together, and its different portions separated by this upland framework. Throughout each portion is distributed its own system of rivers and streams as arteries and veins.

The northern frontier of the district is one continuous range of hills, consisting sometimes of spurs from the Sautpooras, and sometimes of

the Sautpooras themselves. A second great division of hills encloses the district from north-west to south-east, except at a break, where the river Wunna passes through ; and again lower down where the range is resumed in the same direction, but is shifted, so to speak, further north, leaving the Nand valley between the southern side of the range and the Wurdah district boundary. The whole of the plain country (excepting the Nand valley) is thus enclosed between two great hill ranges and the boundary line of Bhundara. But these two mountain ranges are themselves connected together by a third hill range running across the plain thus enclosed ; so that the whole country is divided into three great hill ranges, and three great plains, which the hill ranges either enclose or demarcate ; while each one of these plains has its own system of streams or rivers peculiar to itself.

The hills and hill ranges are extensive in area, though they attain no great altitude. The chains exhibit great variation in height, breadth, contour and outline. They are sometimes, in a high degree, picturesque. They are often covered only with loose stones and low brushwood. In some cases, again, they are quite bare and arid ; in others, their slopes and summits possess a good soil for trees, and carry, or could carry, valuable timber. Generally, they run on in unbroken chains, save at certain intervals, where, perhaps a stream with fertile tracts on either bank has to pass through ; some again are absolutely detached.

Hill tracts.

They must all, however, it seems, be regarded as offshoots, belonging to the Sautpoora range on the north ; and themselves, generally rocky, and comparatively sterile, they have this peculiarity in common, that the valleys and low lands intersecting and adjoining them, possess a soil, not merely culturable, but even extremely fertile. In the midst of barren hills, covered with nothing but loose boulders, and low scrub, the traveller, unexpectedly, finds himself looking down on valleys studded with fruit trees, and teeming with corn and garden cultivation. Strips of rich highly cultivated soil, entering from the lowlands below stretch away through the hill gorges, creeping as it were up the sides, until they abruptly terminate in rock and brushwood.

It is in the abruptness and frequency of the contrasts thus offered between hill and dale, rock and black soil, scrub and cornfield, jungle and homestead, in the ever recurring juxtaposition of desert and garden, that the most striking feature of the hill scenery is to be found.

The first division then to be noticed, is the northern boundary range. This consists of the outlying hills, below the Sautpooras, on the west ; and of the actual ghats themselves ; and of spurs from the lower part of the ghats on the east. Commencing with the extreme western point, and continuing on in a straight line eastwards to the river Kunhan, this strip is exceedingly narrow ; and the Chindwara district is reached at all points before the ascent of the ghats ; but between the Kunhan and the Pench it is widened by a deep indentation into the

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Chindwara district; and the entire ascent of the ghats is made opposite Komarpanee in Chindwara before the Nagpore boundary is passed. The strip here, including the Tikaree hill (1,668 feet above the sea) and other offshoots, averages twelve miles broad. It has some excellent young timber; the whole of it forms part of a great Forest preserve. The scenery about Bhengurh and along the banks of the Pench, is very picturesque. The views commanding the plains from the top of the ghats are striking and even grand; this tract contains the old Gond site of Bhengurh, with some interesting ruins. The Pench, past the district boundary proceeding eastwards, again recedes, leaving only a comparatively narrow strip south of Gowlee ghat. Further east, it becomes narrower still at Joonawanee; but broadens again, as the district boundary extends towards Seonee. During the last seven or eight miles, before the eastern boundary is reached, it again broadens to about ten or eleven miles, but here the hills are only offshoots from the ghats, not the ghats themselves. The breadth then of this division varies from two and three to ten, twelve, and even eighteen miles. Its entire length from west to east is about sixty-four miles. It is, most of it, capable of bearing excellent forest timber, and is rich in useful stone and minerals of various kinds.

To the south of this division, near its eastern extremity, and detached from it, by a few miles of cultivation, stands the sacred hill of Ramtek with its ancient temples and fortress. This hill attains the height of 1,400 feet above the sea. It is in the form of a horse-shoe, the heel of which stands to the south. At the outer extremity, towards the north, the cliff is scarped, rising sheer from the base to about 600 feet. On the summit is pitched the old fortress, and the temples. Below in the hollow, formed by the inner sides of the hill, and embosomed in groves of mango and tamarind, nestles a lake, its margin adorned with temples, and enclosed by broad flights of steps of hewn stone, reaching down to the water. From above the prospect is highly picturesque. To the east and south-east, the eye stretches across the Doab of the Pench and Kunhan, and again over the plain of Nagpore, as far as the Seetabuldee hill. On the north, and north-east is seen, first, a narrow belt of cultivation, then a broad reach of low hills and forest, bounded by the Sautpoora ghats. On the east lies the valley of the river Soor, winding its way towards the Wyngunga; its course marked by a silvery line fringed with the green of the sugarcane; then undulating forest land; while, in the distance, appears the blue outline of the hills at Ambagurh. To the south, far away beyond the lake, and its encircling heights, lies extended, for miles and miles, a vast cultivated plain, dotted with trees, and tanks, and terminated only by the low, jagged hills below Oomrair. Again, a little to the right of Oomrair, may be faintly seen on the horizon, the abrupt peak of Girur, where is a mosque dedicated to Peer Sheikh Furreed, a place of pilgrimage, as celebrated with the Mussulmans, as Ramtek itself amongst the Hindoos.

The second great hill tract is that adjoining, and in great part extending into the Wurdah district. This range is a branch of the Sautpoora

It enters the two districts at nearly the same point of latitude. In *this* district, with the exception of a single break of seven or eight miles at the Wunna river, it may be said to extend from the north-west to the south-east, either along or close to the entire length of the frontier. Above the Wunna valley its breadth is very variable, ranging from two or three miles at the extreme north, to not less than 25 miles at the south. Its length down to the Wunna valley is about 50 miles. In this range is the hill of Khurkee, south-west of Katole, rising to almost 2,000 feet above the sea. This is the highest elevation in the district, not actually belonging to the Sautpooras. Below the Wunna valley the chain is resumed, but diminished both in breadth and height; and though running in the same direction as before to the confines of the Chanda district, is yet, as it were, shifted a little northwards, so as to leave between its southern side and the district boundary, the cultivated strip through which flows the Nand. The length of this second portion is 22 miles; its average breadth may be about 10 miles; but it is much broader in the middle, and tapers away to the south-east. The *upper* tract is full of culturable waste land, and abounds with young teak and other valuable saplings. It contains some cultivated land of great richness, and possesses some wild and beautiful scenery. For the most part, the hills are clothed with trees or brushwood, up to the very top. In the *lower* tract the hills are generally dwarfed and rugged, vegetation is scanty, and the country uninteresting.

The *third* hill range, another spur from the Sautpooras, bisects the Katole tehsel from north to south, forming a connecting link between the two hill divisions already described. Its length is from 16 to 18 miles. Its breadth varies considerably, being nowhere more than 10 miles, and in some places not more than two. The hills are bare and sterile, both in aspect and in reality. Their internal scenery is relieved from insipidity, by their rugged and grotesque outlines. They contain the hill named Pilkapar, (height 1,899 feet,) which is their culminating point.

The whole of the plain country is, as said before, either encompassed or demarcated by these ranges of hills. By far the greatest part of it is comprised in the two great tracts of level or undulating country on either side of the third mountain range, culminating in Pilkapar. The first of these tracts forms the western half of the Katole tehsel, and contains the most highly cultivated land in the district. It is surrounded on three sides by mountain chains, and on the fourth side, by the river Wurdah. It possesses a soil profusely fertile. It abounds in mango, and other fruit trees, and teems with the richest garden cultivation. Its total area is probably about 300 square miles. Its slope is towards the Wurdah river.

Plains.

The *second* great tract in area, at least six times larger, lies to the east of the Pilkapar range, extending between the Sautpooras on the north, and the second great division of hills on the south, to the confines of Bhundara and Chanda, on the east and south-east. It consists of one vast cultivated plain. Its surface, however, is hardly ever level. It is almost always undulating. It abounds in mango groves, and trees

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of all sorts; and in some portions, especially towards the east, it is studded with small tanks, which form quite a feature in the landscape. As was before shown, it pierces the second division of hills by the Wunna valley, which thus connects it with the great cotton field of Wurdah. Except in this valley, the general slope of the country is towards the Wyngunga.

The *third*, and last tract of plain country, is the narrow belt of cultivated land lying between the southern side of the hills described as the *lower* portion of the second division of hills, and the district boundary. This tract naturally belongs to the great Wurdah cotton field, of which it forms the most eastern and elevated part. It possesses for the most part, the black soil common to the rest of the Wurdah cotton field, and is throughout well cultivated. Its slope, as indicated by the course of the Nand river, is westwards to the Wunna valley. Its breadth varies from 4 to 10 miles; and its length, measured south-east to north-west, is almost 24 miles.

Detached Hills.

But in the largest of these three tracts of plain country there are some *detached* hills, that merit a passing notice, such as the Huldolee hills (highest point, 1,300 feet) in the south-east; and the hills at Chuppar Ghurree and Bheokond; the hill of Seetapahar (height 1,433 feet) in the south-east corner of the Tehseelee of Ramtek; and the little hills at Ambhora on the Wyngunga. These last are in themselves insignificant both in height and extent, but they are interesting, as having originally belonged to a range in the Bhundara district, on the other side of the river, which must have forced its way through the chain at this spot. Lastly, towards the middle of this plain, is the isolated little hill on which stands the Seetabuldee fort, insignificant as to its mere altitude, but interesting from its historical associations, and remarkable for the expanse of country which the view from it commands, and for the distance from which it can be seen from all surrounding directions.

Rivers.

The mean elevation above the sea of the plain country, is 1,000 feet in its central portion, lessening to less than 900 feet towards the Wyngunga and Wurdah.

The district has been described as being bounded on the north-west by a short stretch of the river Wurdah; similarly the course of the Wyngunga adjoins it for a short distance on the east. As these two rivers in no way belong to the Nagpore district, any description of them would be out of place in this report. I notice them however for this reason, that it is into them that the drainage of the whole area under description finds its way. Of all the streams flowing through this district, there is not one which does not eventually discharge its waters either into the Wyngunga in the east and south-east, or else into the Wurdah on the west and south-west.

It has been said, that each of the three plain tracts described in the foregoing paras. has its own system of rivers. The waters due to the *first* and *third* of these plains flow *westwards* to join the Wurdah. The rivers draining the *second*, and by far the largest plain, and that portion of the Sautpoora range which immediately overhangs it, flow (with one exception only) *eastwards* to the Wyngunga.

The rivers traversing the *second* tract, are the Jam and the Muddar. The single stream in the *third* tract is the Nand.

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—
Rivers.
(—Contd.)

The rivers of the *second*, or *great* plain, are numerous, and entitled to a brief description. The two largest are the Kunhan and the Pench. These and the Kolar unite (the two first at Beena, the last at Wurraigaon) a little above Kamptee, and thence flowing in a single stream (the Kunhan) past the military cantonment, join the Wyngunga at Tidhee, a little above Ambhora. Of these, the Pench and the Kunhan have their origin in the vicinity of the Sautpoora range, which is immediately north of that district. Until the point of junction, they flow in directions south and south-east, enclosing about and below the town of Parseonee, a fertile and highly cultivated Doab. The Kolar, rising in the hills about Pilkapar and Mohgaon in the Katole tehsel, flows eastwards throughout its course. It is joined by one or two small affluents, the principal of which is the Chunderbhaga. The Soor rises in the lower ghats to the north of the district, and flows in a north-easterly direction through a fertile tract. Its waters are believed to be especially good for irrigation of the sugarcane, and this cultivation may be said almost to fringe its banks. Of the remaining streams, there are the Murboo, which first appears amongst the hills in the extreme north of the Chanda district; the Amb, which rises in the hills eastward of Oomrair, and flowing past that town reaches the Wyngunga at Ambhora, to which place it gives its name; and the Nag, an affluent of the Kunhan, a small stream, which rising amongst the little hills north-west of Seetabuldee, flows past and through portions of the City of Nagpore, and after receiving the Peelee and other smaller streams, empties itself in the Kunhan. Lastly, through a portion of this tract flows the Wunna, with its affluent the Bor. The Wunna is a tributary of the Wurdah river, and its valley and surrounding watersheds are the only instance of the general slope of this tract being otherwise than towards the Wyngunga.

The main characteristics common to all the streams in the district, are their high banks, and confined channels, which, however, become less steep, and more sloping, where the tracts they traverse are open and undulating; the depth of their channels far below the surface the adjacent country; their sandy beds interspersed at intervals with abrupt and jagged ledges of rock; and most of all, the astonishing suddenness with which their waters rise and subside; and the extraordinary impetuosity of their currents while a flood lasts. During the dry season the largest, the Kunhan, the Pench, the Kolar, the Wunna, the Soor, the Bor, and the Nand, have indeed always water; but what there is, may be said to be in the pools, some of which are very fine. Where the water flows, the volume delivered during this season is quite insignificant, in many instances but a mere rivulet; the rest as streams may be said to be completely dried up, having water only in pools here and there. On the other hand, during a flood in the moonsoon, the largest among them assume the dimensions of great rivers, while every paltry rivulet and dry nullah, is in an hour, swollen into a powerful stream or changed into the channel of a torrent.

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Section II.
Climate,
and seasons.

The mean temperature is higher than in many other parts of India of the same height above sea level. But the absence of the really bracing air in the cold season for Upper India is in some degree compensated for by fresh cool weather during the greater part of the monsoon, and by tolerably cool nights in the summer months.

The following table gives the temperature for the last twelve months:—

MONTHS.						Maximum.	Minimum.	Mean.
1860.								
June ..	..	..	..	..	..	112	73	81·7
July ..	..	..	..	..	..	97	70	81·7
August ..	..	..	..	..	..	90	73	80·5
September ..	..	..	..	..	..	97	65	81·
October ..	..	..	..	..	..	97	59	78·
November ..	..	..	..	..	..	88	54	71·
December ..	..	..	..	..	..	85	48	60·
1867.								
January ..	..	..	..	..	..	92	52	71·1
February ..	..	..	..	..	..	96	53	75·
March ..	..	..	..	..	..	106	63	84·5
April ..	..	..	..	..	..	109	64	88·6
May ..	..	..	..	..	..	113	70	93·5

As in other parts of India, there are three seasons,—the hot, the cold and the rainy. The positively hot weather ordinarily commences about the 1st of April, and lasts till the first week in June. The monsoon lasts throughout June, July, and August. At this season, the climate, though full of moisture, is fresh and pleasant to the feelings. In September there are long breaks between each fall of rain, when the weather is often close and sultry, though never so much so as in the plains of the north of India at this time. October is generally sultry and unpleasant, but diversified occasionally by refreshing showers. The cold weather does not fairly set in till the middle of November. From the 15th of November to the end February the air is generally cool and pleasant. Often, however, with the appearance of clouds, the thermometer rises as much as seven or eight degrees, and the climate becomes disagreeable and close. From the 15th of February the weather gets warmer, and the hot winds blow from the beginning of April till the monsoon.

Rain falls during every month in the year, usually during the hot and cold season, only in showers, but sometimes accompanied with violent storms. Hail falls occasionally in January, February, and the early part of March, sometimes in very large stones, doing much damage to the spring crops.

It is considered that the average annual rain-fall, taking a great number of years back, is about 40 inches.

The following table gives the rain-fall during the last three years :—

	MONTHS.		1864.	1865.	1866.
January	2.04	0	0
February	0	1.56	0
March	0	2.59	0
April50	1.22	0
May	1.95	1.27	0
June	7.34	10.22	6.10
July	9.70	10.77	10.10
August	10.46	8.33	14.42
September	3.45	3.32	8.89
October	0	1.75	1.40
November	0.15	.14	0
December	0	.46	.20
Total ..		35.59	41.63	41.11	

The climate during the rains is considered by the poorer inhabitants, who are exposed to it, as more trying than the cold of the real cold weather. In July and August it is not unusual to see people sitting round a fire in the very early morning before going out for their day's labour.

The climate is certainly not unhealthy. But the late collection of vital statistics has not been extended generally enough to make possible any comparison of deaths with population for the entire district. Fever is the most frequent amongst the epidemic diseases. The most unhealthy season is from the second week in September till the second week in December. The jungle tracts are certainly not free from malaria until the cold weather has well set in; and during the greater part of November it is decidedly feverish in camp. Epidemic cholera occurs occasionally. In 1865 there were a large number of deaths from this disease. Small-pox, too, occurs at intervals, but lately its ravages have been materially lessened by vaccination.

The juxtaposition of volcanic and plutonic rocks, enclosing between them, as they do in this district, the wreck of a vast sandstone formation, invests the geology of Nagpore with particular interest.

In the centre of the district stands the Seetabuldee Hill,—the centre of interest, as well geologically as historically. Within the limits of the horizon as seen from its summit, every formation belonging to the district is to be met. More than this, within the circuit of a few hundred yards, we have an epitome of the geology of the Peninsula middle zone.

Standing on the hill-top, we see the surface strewn with nodular trap. A few feet below, in the scarped face of the hill, may be traced a shallow layer of fresh water formation; below this a soft bluish tufa, which passes into a porous amygdaloid, and deeper into an exceedingly fine augitic greenstone. At the base of the hill, beneath the basalt, we have sandstone; these in their lowest parts have been altered into gneiss, by the action of the underlying plutonic rocks.

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Trap rocks.

Generally, the trappean portion of the district is clearly demarcated by a sharp and sudden rise in elevation; and this line of geological separation corresponds in some measure with the limits of the hill tracts as described in the first section of this report. The demarcating line enters the district from the north, at a point about two miles west of Kelode, then passes south-west and crosses the Kolar river, three miles west of Saonair. Then from Adassa, it sweeps westward by Dhappawara and Molipa, around Kulmeshwur, and back again to near Goontala, and then southward by Seetagondee to Taklee, from whence an offset runs into the plain. Seetaboldee is the extreme point of this spur. From Taklee the line runs through Telinkerry to Goomgaon. Hitherto the line has followed the western or northern base of the hills described as the *third* and *second* hill divisions in Section I. of this article. But the geological line now turns east, traceable, though faintly so, by the increased elevation in surface, till it reaches a point north of the Joonapanee and Sindiheeree group of trappean hills. Here occurs a gap of a few miles. Further east the line re-commences at Ambolee, about three miles north-east of Oomrair, and runs with the northern escarpment of the hills described in Section I. as the *lower* portion of the second hill division, to Huldoolee, near Mandhull; from thence going nearly parallel to the Wyngunga, the line turns south to a point near Bhewapore, and a few miles further south leaves the district with the hills which here pass into the district of Chanda.

To the *west* and *south* of this demarcating line, with a few unimportant exceptions, the ground-work of the country is trap.

There is, however, another, though very small part of the district, where trap is the surface rock, east and north of this demarcating line. This is where the limits of the Nagpore district extend above the ghats of the Sautpooras. This tract is scarcely ten miles long, and seldom more than two broad. The trap here extends southward for some little distance from the level of the plateau.

Thus trap is the surface rock over about 1,900 square miles, or more than a half of the whole area of the district,

From the Seetaboldee Hill, looking to the northern and north-western points of the compass, we meet hills, massive and round topped. After a long sweep, where in the direction of Kodamendee, the rich plain stretches beyond the horizon, we faintly see the serrated outline of the Bullahi hills near Bhundara. These forms are characteristic of the granite formations (which with a few interruptions extend from here down to Cuttack) as the flattened summits are of the trap.

Sandstones.

Again, turning to the north, we have in the foreground the gently swelling undulations of sandstone, shales, and dolomite running from Korhadee up to Parseonee.

The area over which sandstone formations occur at the surface is comparatively small. The sandstone enters the Seetaboldee Hill on the eastern side beneath the trap. On the western side it emerges, and is seen for a short space; then gneiss takes its place down as far as the Nag river; sandstone then reappears, but is soon lost under the

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trap at Ambajerry. A sheet of sandstone about fifteen square miles in extent, re-appears at a distance of seventeen miles, near Bahar, on the upper part of the Wunna valley.

Northwards again from Nagpore, over the Taklee plain, to Silawarra and Korhadee and Suradee, where the sandstone is associated with shale and dolomite, up the basins of the Kolar, the Kunhan and the Pench, sandstone formations predominate,—a tract perhaps on the average thirty miles long by nine broad. Detached from this continuous bed, it is again found at Charkharree and Chicholee, north of Pilkapar, near the sources of the Kolar, surrounded by trap. These outliers point to a continuation of sandstone underlying trap as far as Chikulda in Berar, and also following the direction of the Kunhan to the Chindwara coal district, and the sandstone of Mohtoor.

Small patches of sandstone occur also among the Sindiheeree hills, and in the neighbourhood of Oomrair, showing the connections of the Nagpore beds with those of Chanda and Bhundara.

In some few parts beds of laterite are found on the surface, as at Pandrothal, southwest of Oomrair at Mohoda and Kurbee, and at Dhurmapoor, in the valley of the Soornuddee. At Keranla, east of Oomrair, it rests on gneiss.

Laterite.

Throughout the whole of the rest of the district granite and kindred rocks form the ground-work of the country.

The superficial deposits are the "regur," or black cotton soil, and the red soil, the former occurring almost universally with trap, the latter with plutonic rocks, sandstone, or laterite.

Soils.

Taking the various formations in descending series, we have the "regur," which seldom in this district exceeds twelve feet in depth. It seems to be destitute of organic remains of any antiquity. Its chemical composition is very nearly the same as we find in the black soil of the southern Russian steppes. This does not show greater affinity to the trap than to the granite rocks, nor would its colour prove that the "regur" is produced from the disintegration of trap. Yet its position, constantly attendant on the trap, its containing the same minerals, as agates, chalcedony, zeolite, and its fusing like basalt into obsidian, are strong arguments against the counter-theory of its being a lacustrine deposit. It is frequently permeated with kunkur in seams; and often in the drying beds of small streams gives a considerable saline efflorescence.

Black soil.

The red soil seems to be older than the "regur". It has much greater depth, sometimes as much as 50 feet; like the "regur," it generally rests on a retentive calcareous clay, with a layer of conglomerate at its bottom. It also abounds in nodular carbonate of lime. Both of these superficial deposits are mostly unfossiliferous; but judging from such remains of mollusca and mammalia as have been found, it would seem that they are post-pliocene.

Red soil.

The brown clay, with its accompanying band of conglomerate, underlying these superficial deposits averages a depth of twenty feet. It is

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not known to be fossiliferous. This stratum should be referred to the newer pliocene formations.

The beds of laterite which occur in this district are generally less than ten feet in depth, and seem to be without organic remains. No satisfactory theory has yet been advanced to account for the manner of their formation.

In the descending series, we next meet the overlying trap. Between this and the underlying beds of basalt, a layer of fresh water formation intervenes. In the hill of Seetabuldee and the little flat topped hills around, the general depth of the overlying layer is from fifteen to twenty feet.

Hislop's account of the Singapore formations.

The fresh water deposit which succeeds this, is extremely varied, sometimes one or two inches, sometimes six feet in depth; sometimes it is sandy or of clay, here altered by heat to a crystalline state, there reduced to a cinder, now rich in fossils, now destitute of them. But wherever both layers of trap are present, the fresh water seam intervenes. The height of all the basalt hills depends entirely on the thickness of the lower bed, as it lies on the sedimentary rocks below. The late Mr. Hislop describes the method of deposition thus:—"It is quite evident that before either of the volcanic rocks was poured out in our area, there had been deposited on the sandstone a stratum, which must have been 6 feet thick. Over this there was spread a molten mass of lava, which hardened the surface of the stratum and itself cooled into a flat sheet of globular basalt, about twenty feet thick. After a period of repose, the internal fire again became active, and discharged another effusion, which insinuated itself between the sandstone and the superior deposit; and accumulating in some parts more than in others, through force of tension, ruptured the superincumbent mass, tilting up the stratum and trap above the level of the plain, either left it a flat topped hill or with boiling surge pushed up its summit gradually or by fitful effort."

We find that this fresh water deposit was lacustrine; and from the fossils examined, that it corresponds more nearly with the London clay, than with any other formation; we must therefore class it as belonging to the Eocene series. Thus of these three, the lower basalt is the most recent, and the fresh water formation the oldest.

The minerals of the trap are jasper, obsidian, heliotrope, and mesotype.

Next below the amygdaloid in our series, come the various beds of sandstone. The upper bed (which is best seen at Bhokaree) has a thickness of twenty-five feet. It is coarse and gritty, but very hard. In this upper bed are often included fragments of a finer sandstone from below. Lying between this upper bed, and the next in succession, we find bands of ferruginous conglomerate. The layers underlying the iron bands, are on the top especially soft, and argillaceous, highly fossiliferous and fissile. After a depth of about fifteen feet, the stone gradually becomes quite hard. It is clear from a comparison of fossil remains that this second bed corresponds with the carbonaceous and bituminous

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shales of Oomrair and Burkoi, and of Chanda ; and if coal does exist in this district, it is here that we shall find it. The depth of this second layer of sandstone is probably in this district under 300 feet.

In some parts of the district, for example between Korhadee and Bokharee, red shaly beds and green argillaceous strata have been forced up to the surface by the action of granite dykes. These formations underlie the second sandstone bed. These shales are again found in Chanda. The green shale has a depth of 30 feet, the red of 50 feet. The white marble (which appears on the surface at Korhadee) succeeds the green and red shales. It has been converted into a dolomite by the agency of the lower plutonic rocks. Similar strata are found at Gokala and Dudhgaon and Ambajerry, in the valley of the Pench. A run of small hills of this dolomite extends from Nawagaon on the Pench to Kumari, north of Ramtek. We cannot expect to find organic remains in this crystallized rock. This bed is probably not more than 100 feet in depth. It seems that this bed too is of lacustrine formation.

The first and second beds of sandstone are probably very nearly of one age. Their equivalent strata in the English system are in the lower Oolitic series. The green and red shales are not much older, and must be part of the same jurassic group.

As the dolomite is in other districts found alternating with the shales, we must suppose it to be of just the same age.

Metamorphic and plutonic rocks occur in such varied combinations, that it is very difficult to give any general description of them. Near Nagpore gneiss is the most common form, passing into mica schist. Quartz dykes are common. Pegmatite is here more common than syenite or granite.

The plutonic rocks are not of one age. Sometimes dykes of granite are seen traversing other masses of the same kind of rock, when between the two, much difference of consistency and composition exist. The pegmatite of Nagpore city has altered the lower parts of the sandstone into gneiss, and has up-heaved it, showing that its date is posterior to that of the sandstone.

It may be interesting to quote here the sketch given by the late Revd. S. Hislop, of the condition during the various geological epochs of a great tract of Central India, in which tract this district is probably about the central point :—“ It is not until we come down to the jurassic era that we meet with archives whose characters can be read. Then we find that Central India was covered by a large body of fresh water, which stretched southward into the Peninsula, and eastward into Bengal, whilst on the north and west it communicated by some narrow channel with the sea.” * * * * *

“ Meanwhile plutonic agency was going forward ; and strata as they were formed, were shattered, and reconstructed into breccia, and finally an extensive outburst of granite elevated the bed of the lake, and left it dry land.” * * * * *

“ After the end of this epoch Central India suffered a depression, and

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was again covered by a vast lake." * * * *

"When the lake had during its appointed time furnished an abode to its peculiar living creatures and plants, it was invaded by an immense outpouring of trap which filled up its bed, and left Western, and a great part of Central India a dreary waste of lava. But these basaltic steppes were ere long broken up. A second eruption of trap not now coming to the surface, but forcing a passage for itself under newer lacustrine strata, lifted up the superincumbent mass in ranges of flat topped hills; since then to the east, water has swept over the plutonic and sandstone rocks, and laid down quantities of transported materials impregnated with iron; and some time after there was deposited in the west a conglomerate, imbedding bones of huge mammals, and above it a stratum of brown clay, which immediately preceded the superficial deposits of black and red soil."

**Section IV.
History.**

The remote history of the country is quite lost to us. The general term "Gondwana" was known to the Hindoos of the Gangetic valley, and was applied by them in the later Sunserit literature to a region of large but undefined extent lying towards the "Dakshan Arunya," or southern forest land.

Of this Gondwana there were four great divisions or kingdoms,—Gurra Mundla, Kherla, Deogurh, and Chanda. Of the area now comprising this district, so much is certain, that it belonged to the third of these States; and that it was in the year 1700, A. D., subject to the Gond Prince Bukht Boolund.

Gaolee kings.

But among the people, tradition, frequent though vague, is not wanting, pointing to a time far anterior to the Gonds, when throughout Deogurh Gaolee chiefs held sway. The exploits and renown of these ancient chiefs are often referred to in the songs of the villagers. There are forts, too, and tanks and temples, or remnants of such structures,—evidently the handiwork of races preceding the Gonds. The villagers of to-day, though unable to apprehend from the ruins themselves the architectural characteristics of either race, are quite aware that much distinction is to be made. "It was a Gaolee not a Gond king, so our fathers have told us,"—this is the common answer to all questions respecting such relics.

The tide of that Mahomedan invasion, which swept away the Hindoo kingdoms of the Deccan, and resulted in the formation of the Bahwanee empire, passed down westward through Malwa, and Kan-deish, leaving Gondwana undisturbed.

Gond dynasty.

The first Gond ruler of Deogurh was Jatba. It is unknown how many generations there were between him and his descendant Bukht Boolund, from whose reign we begin to know something historically, and can fix our first date with precision. There must have been many generations, as we find,—at a time which local tradition would fix at about A. D. 1560,—a rajah of Deogurh encouraging settlers to come from the richer district of Chanda, and form a settlement at Bhewapore, then in the heart of a jungle; and that, at this time, a fort was raised here by one Bheem Sah, or by his father Juntun Sah, who appear to have been the first settlers at the place. And all the local accounts

A. D. 1700.

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go to show that the numerous Gond forts studded over the district, were each of them raised to protect a new batch of settlers, while the jungles around were being brought under the plough.

These and similar traditions, especially prevalent in the south-eastern part of the district, as well as tanks, and other evidences of a people of settlers and colonists, afford us, but faint glimpses of their condition and progress. We can yet see that they were struggling well and nobly,—not against men, but against the uncurbed forces of nature, against the dominion of the jungle. Their achievements remain in the vast areas redeemed from waste. But their names have faded away from memory. Even their forts, their works of irrigation, and other instruments of their success, have crumbled into decay.

Bukht Boolund was the first Gond prince who resided below the Sautpoora ghats. He was a contemporary of the emperor Aurungzebe, and visited the Delhi court as a tributary chief. While in Hindoostan he adopted the Mahomedan religion. Returning to this country he brought with him large bodies of artificers and agriculturists, both Hindoos and Mahomedans, whose services must have been of great value in the backward state of the country. He added to his dominions both from Chanda and Mundla, he successfully settled his old possessions and his new conquests, and established many towns and villages by allowing the original settlers to hold their lands, at first rent free, and afterwards on a very light assessment. He paid great attention to agriculture, and finally founded the city of Nagpore on the site of some hamlets, then known as Rajapore Bharsah.

Bukht
Boolund.

Chand Sultan succeeded Bukht Boolund, and like him, turned his attention to the improvement of his country, and especially to agriculture. He walled in the city of Nagpore, and made it his capital.

His successors.

On the death of Chand Sultan, in A.D. 1739, Wallee Shah, an illegitimate son of Bukht Boolund seized on the vacant throne. But the widow of the deceased prince called in Rughojee Bhonslah from Berar to support her two sons Booran Shah and Akbar Shah. The usurper was put to death, and the rightful heirs placed on the throne. Rughojee then retired to his charge in Berar.

A. D. 1739.

This was the *first* direct connection of the Bhonslah family with Nagpore.

The
Bhonslahs.

But the country was not destined to remain long without Rughojee's interference. Dissensions between the brothers ripened into civil wars. In the year A.D. 1742, on one occasion 12,000 Gonds are said to have been massacred in the fort of Patunsaongee. In the following year (1743) Rughojee was called in to support the elder, Booran Shah. Akbar Shah was driven into exile. Rughojee had not the heart to give back to the weaker Gond a second time the country he held in his grasp. He made himself Protector, took all real power into his own hands, and making Nagpore his capital, quickly reduced all Deogurh to his own authority. But still he studiously preserved the show of Booran Shah's dignity; whilst in reality he reduced him to the condition of

A. D. 1742.
A. D. 1743.

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a State pensioner, having a fixed share of the revenue, and the empty title of Rajah.

In this position Booran Shah and his descendants ever remained. The present representative of the deposed prince resides at Nagpore as a State pensioner, with the title Rajah. He, like his ancestors, is well known as a kind and intelligent landlord.

Disappearance of Gond power.

At the same time that the sovereignty passed away from the Gond family, the impress of the race on the country began to wane, until, at the present day, excepting in the Rajah's family alone, there is not to be found either in city or village any Gond holding a leading position. Their customs, language, and institutions ceased to prevail, save in their own families. Henceforward the country becomes essentially *Mahratta*, and its interests follow the fortunes of the family of Rughojee Bhonslah.

**A. D. 1690.
Bhonslah family.**

The rise of the extraordinary family from village patelship to regal state may here be briefly traced. About the year A. D. 1690, there was one Moodhajee Bhonslah, Patel of Deor who had served as a Silladar under Shahjee, and the great Sivajee, the founders of the Mahratta empire.

A. D. 1709.

Moodhajee had three sons,—Bapoojee, Pursojee, and Sahajee. Pursojee, the most distinguished of these, served with credit in the early wars of the Mahratta State. As a reward he was entrusted with the collection of Chouth in Berar, a province then being wrested by the Mahratta from the Moguls. He died about the year A.D. 1709, and was succeeded by his son Kanhojee.

A. D. 1698.

Rughojee Bhonslah was born in the Poona country, about the year 1698. He was the son of Bimbajee, who was the son of Bapoojee, the eldest son of Moodhajee, and was therefore a cousin of Kanhojee. He served with Kanhojee for some years; but on account of some disagreement quitted his service. Soon after Kanhojee fell into disgrace with the Sattara court; he was recalled, and Rughojee was sent to Berar in his place.

**A. D. 1738.
The rise of
their power.**

In 1738 Rughojee, by plundering from Berar up to the gates of Allahabad without sanction from the Peishwa, roused the anger of this his real master; and when the latter, to punish his audacity, sent an army towards Berar, he took up arms and slew the ministerial general on the field of battle. Two years later he headed the great raid into the southern part of the Peninsula, when the Mahrattas overran the Carnatic, reduced Tanjore, and took Trichinopoly.

A. D. 1740.

In two years more we see his General, Bhasker Punt, ravaging Gurra Mundla, entering Bahar, plundering Ramghur and Pachete, and acquiring booty through a bold partisan from Moorshedabad, the capital of Bengal.

A. D. 1742.

Whilst his armies were thus ravaging Bengal, Rughojee himself, having defeated Akbar Shah, and restored Booran Shah as nominal sovereign of Deogurh, was engaged in establishing his own power at Nagpore. He died at Nagpore in A. D. 1755. Bold and decisive in

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action, he was the perfect type of a Mahratta leader. He saw in the troubles of other States only an opening for his own ambition ; he did not wait even for a pretext for plunder and invasion. Though he was unscrupulous in his dealings with his neighbours, yet he was liked and admired by his countrymen, who even now look with pride to Rughojee Bhonslah,—the first and greatest of the Nagpore house.

With Rughojee occurred the great influx of Mahrattas which resulted in the spread of the Koonbees and cognate Mahratta tribes over the entire district. It is erroneous, however, to suppose that there were no Mahrattas here before Rughojee. On the contrary, there are the strongest proofs of grants of land by Bukht Boolund to certain Mahrattas before Rughojee's first visit. Although from the documents now extant it would seem that both the Mahratta and Oordoo languages were used at Bukht Boolund's Court, yet the Vernacular was undoubtedly Gondlee, and the bulk of the people Gonds. But from this time the Vernacular in every village became Mahrattee. We know but little of the administration under the Gonds, but it is certain that much of the material prosperity under the first Mahratta princes was owing to the Gond ground-work laid by Prince Bukht Boolund.

A. D. 1743 to
1755.

The Bhonslah family obtained Deogurh through "treaty" with the original possessors, and afterwards allowed the title of Rajah to the dispossessed princes, and granted them a share of the Nagpore revenue as it stood when the treaty was made. The commutation was received by the Gond princes through their own officers. All State ceremonial was ostentatiously rendered to the deposed princes. They gave the "Teeka," or mark of investiture, to the Bhonslah on each subsequent accession to the throne, and they affixed their seal to certain revenue papers. And in this there was deep policy, as the Bhonslahs would be seen holding the Nagpore territory from the Gonds, and not subject to the paramount power at Poona, and thus deriving a position superior to that of other military chiefs of the Mahratta empire, who owed their elevation to the Peishwa, and held their fiefs by his favour.

Rughojee was succeeded in A. D. 1755 by his eldest son Janojee, though not without opposition from another brother Moodhajee. The matter was referred to Poona ; the former was confirmed in the sovereignty of Nagpore, and title of Sena Sahib Soobah ; while Chanda and Chatteesgurh were given as an appanage to Moodhajee. Janojee turned all his attention to settling the territory left him by his father. He and his kingdom sustained no loss by the battle of Paniput ; but rather from the terrible losses of the other Mahratta princes, he became relatively stronger.

A. D. 1755.

Soon after this, the Nizam taking advantage of the minority of the Peishwa, Madho Rao took up arms. Janojee was bought off from an alliance with him by the promise of the Sirdeshmookhee of Berar, and full liberty to plunder his brother at Chanda.

The Nizam in that year was successful, and dictated peace almost at the gates of Poona ; but yet, next year, broke through his treaties and gained over Janojee to join him.

A. D. 1761.

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A. D. 1763.

Together they sacked and burned Poona. This was not the last of Janojee's treachery. By the promise of territory yielding thirty-two lakhs of annual revenue, he was induced to betray the Nizam and attack his army.

A. D. 1765.

The price was paid to Janojee, but the boy Peishwa did not fail to call him to his face a double traitor. He had detested Janojee before this, and now united with the Nizam to avenge the sack of Poona. The confederate armies advanced to Nagpore and burned it, and forced the Rajah to disgorge the greater part of the price of his former treachery. Two years later Janojee was again in arms against the Peishwa, having joined in the rebellion of Raghoba (uncle of the Peishwa) and the Gaekwar. On this occasion the Peishwa advanced through Berar up to Nagpore, while Janojee, having given him the slip, was plundering around Poona.

A. D. 1771.

In the year 1771 Janojee went to the Court at Poona, and obtained sanction for adopting his nephew Rughojee, the son of his brother Moodhajee of Chanda. Doubtless, his intention of doing this had preserved peace between the brothers all through the complications with the Nizam and the Peishwa.

A. D. 1772.

Janojee died on his return journey to Nagpore in May 1772 at Sooljapore on the Godavary.

During his reign the country of Nagporé, except on two occasions, had perfect peace within its boundaries. Janojee's name is remembered as the settler of what his father only conquered. In his private life he was easy of accesss, most regular in the observance of all duties of State and of religion. On the whole, his treacherous disposition notwithstanding, he was far from a bad type of a Mahratta sovereign of the time. Justice was well administered, crimes were few, and capital punishment seldom inflicted. The revenue flourished and the people were well off.

A. D. 1772.

After the death of Janojee, before Moodhajee with his youthful son, Rughojee, the late king's nephew and heir by adoption, could reach Nagpore, Senajee, another brother of Janojee, had usurped the government. During the next two years and a half, a civil war raged, diversified in A. D. 1773, by a short reconciliation and joint government,

A. D. 1773.

and characterised by repeated desertion of party by Darya Baee, widow of the late Rajah Janojee, who now supported one claimant to the throne, and now the other. The closing scene of this contest was on the battle field of Panchgaon, six miles south of Nagpore. The fortune of the day had declared for Senajee, and Moodhajee was being surrounded by his brother's troops. Flushed with the fight and with victory, Senajee drove his elephant against that on which his brother was seated, and called on him to surrender. A pistol shot was the only reply. One brother had slain the other, and gained the undisputed regency, in behalf of his son, and the title of Sena Dhurundhur.

Moodhajee at once set about restoring order in the affairs of the State, governing wisely and moderately.

A. D. 1777.

In the year 1777 he entered with caution into engagements with the English who were then preparing to support the claims of Raghoba as Peishwa.

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He was obliged, however, in order to keep up appearances at Poona, to send troops down to Cuttack. Their march was intentionally delayed. When they arrived, they did not act against the British Government, who were all the time kept informed that this march on Cuttack was a mere pretence. The Regent even assisted the march of Colonel Pearce through his Provinces, when a force was being sent from Bengal against Hyder Ali. This display of a conciliatory spirit towards the English happened too at a time when Bengal was denuded of troops.

About this time, Mundla and the Nerbudda valley were added to the Nagpore dominions by a treaty in which Moodhajee agreed to pay 27 lakhs of rupees into the Poona treasury.

The Regent died in A. D. 1788, leaving all the Nagpore State tranquil and prosperous—conditions which had lasted within the present Nagpore district ever since the battle of Pauchgaon. He left great treasure in cash and in jewels to his family.

His son Rughojee, though of age and nominally Rajah, had remained, during the lifetime of his able father, in perfect submission and obedience. He now assumed control of the State. He went to Poona, where his titles and dignity were confirmed. He also obtained for his younger brother Venkajee the father's title of Sena Dhurundhur, with Chanda and Chutteesgurh as an appanage. Chimmajee, the other brother, was to have had Mundla; but he died shortly after Rughojee's return to Nagpore, very suddenly and not without suspicion of having met with foul play.

The Rajah took up his residence at Nagpore, while his troops were fighting in the Peishwa's armies against the Nizam and Tippoo of Mysore. He participated in all the advantages gained by the Maharattas in these wars.

In the year 1791, when the political condition of Western India was much confused, he seized upon Hoshungabad and the lower Nerbudda valley. In the two following years he had gained the forts of Chowragurh, Tezghur and Mundla from the Chief of Saugor, as also the fort of Dhamohlee from another Bundela chieftain. He then began to consolidate his power in these newly acquired districts. In the year 1797 Jeshwunt Rao Holkar fled for shelter to Nagpore, but found only a prison.

During this time the connection of Nagpore with the Bengal Government had been growing firmer; and in A. D. 1798 Mr. Colebrooke came as Resident to the court of Rughojee.

In May 1801 the British Resident was withdrawn.

Scindia and Rughojee united together in the year 1803 to oppose the British Government, which had now replaced Bajee Rao the Peishwa after the treaty of Bassein. This they did in accordance with the wishes and secret directions of Bajee Rao himself. General Wellesley soon brought the confederates to battle at Assaye; Rughojee left the field at the commencement of the battle; Scindia's troops bore the brunt of the day and suffered very heavily; but at Argaum, a few weeks after, the Nagpore army under Venkajee Bhonslah was completely worsted. The fort of Gawilghur soon fell to the British.

A. D. 1788.

A. D. 1791.

A. D. 1797.

A. D. 1798.

A. D. 1801.

A. D. 1803.

NAGPORE.**A. D. 1803.**

Meanwhile, from the Bengal side, Colonel Harcourt had won the whole of Rughojee's province of Cuttack. The price of peace which he now sued for was heavy; nearly one-third of his kingdom was shorn off, comprising East and West Berar, Cuttack up to Balasore, Sumbulpore and its dependencies; lastly, the Rajah was to receive permanently a Resident at his court at Nagpore, Mr. Mountstuart Elphinstone was appointed to the post.

Before this peace Rughojee's annual revenues had been nearly one crore of rupees; but after the loss of Cuttack and Berar it fell to about 60 lakhs. Before the war he had 18,000 horse, mostly Mahrattas of the Poona country, and 25,000 infantry, of which 11,000 were of regular battalions; besides these he entertained a body of 4,000 Arab mercenaries. His artillery counted 90 guns, but of these 38 were lost at Argaum. His cavalry also were much reduced after that battle, and after the ensuing peace the regular infantry were never replaced.

Thus, of all the territory won by the great Rughojee and his two sons, there only remained Deogurh, Chanda, Chutteesgurh with its dependencies, and the districts on the Nerbudda.

A. D. 1804.

Rughojee now had the heavy task of putting the finances of his country in order, settling his new boundaries, and securing his subjects from the famine, which was then so severely felt in the Deccan. To retrieve his finances he exacted large sums from his ministers and bankers, and with regard to the payment of his troops, practised the meanest frauds.

A. D. 1806.

During the campaign which Rughojee had undertaken with Scindia, the Nawab of Bhopal had seized on Hoshungabad. This the Rajah now recovered; also Sumbulpore and its dependencies were restored to him by the English in A. D. 1806.

The Nagpore portion of his dominions now became the scene of frequent contests with the Pindarees and the robber hordes of Ameer Khan. For security against these marauders most of the village forts were built, the remains of which stud the whole of this district. Insignificant as they may appear to us now, many of them have been the scenes of struggles when the peasant fought for bare life, all he possessed outside the walls being already lost to him.

There are some ancient men now alive who can tell us of the hard lot of those days, how they sowed in sorrow, with little hope of seeing the harvest, and how, whenever they did reap, they buried the corn at once in the ground.

A. D. 1811.

The Resident repeatedly suggested that the Rajah should entertain a subsidiary force; but his pride would not permit him to consent. The boldness of these robber bands became so great that in November 1811 they advanced under Ameer Khan's leadership up to Nagpore, burned one of the suburbs, and only retired when they knew that two British columns were approaching from the Nizam's dominions to drive them back.

In this same year Rughojee had been trying to conquer Gurrakota, the possession of a petty Chief near Saugor. But Baptiste, one of Scindia's Generals, advanced to its relief, and routed the Nagpore troops.

In the year A. D. 1813 the Rajah of Nagpore entered into a compact with Scindia for the conquest and partition of the territories of Bhopal. After besieging the capital for nine months, the confederates had to retire in July 1814 baffled by the energy and heroism of Wazir Mahomed. Rughojee would have renewed his attempt in the following year had not the Bengal Government declared that this could not be permitted.

Rughojee died in March A. D. 1816. He was coarse and vulgar in person, jealous of everyone, so prying into the minute details of Government that no one served him heartily. His rapacity we have seen, his avarice was proverbial. He owned whole rows of shops in the bazaar. He first kept his troops out of their pay, then lent them money from his own banking establishments; at last, when he did pay them their arrears, he would oblige them to take a portion of it in goods from his own stores. The same spirit pervaded his family and his court.

He was succeeded by his son Pursojee, a man blind, lame and paralyzed. Very soon after his accession, the new Rajah became totally imbecile, and it was necessary to appoint a Regent. The Banka Baee, widow of the deceased Rajah, with his nephew Goojaba Dada Goojur for some time kept possession of the Rajah's person and the regency, until with the consent of the Mankuries (Maharrata nobles) and the military leaders, Moodhajee Bhonslah, the son of the late Rajah's younger brother Venkajee, and next of kin to Pursojee, succeeded in becoming Regent, after, as it is stated, imprisoning the Banka Baee, forcing Dada Goojur to fly to Hindoostan, and murdering Dhurmajee Bhonslah, the favourite of all parties at Nagpore. During the time when the issue was uncertain, and after being installed as Regent, Moodhajee, or Appa Sahib, as he was generally called, courted the countenance of the new Resident, Mr. Jenkins, and was anxious to get a subsidiary force, for he knew that there was much debt to be cleared off, and that it would be necessary to reduce the strength of the army, —a measure sure to create much discontent.

Accordingly on the 28th of May 1816 a treaty of defensive alliance was signed, by which the British were to maintain six battalions of infantry, with cavalry and artillery, while Pursojee was to pay seven and a half lakhs of rupees annually, and to maintain a contingent of 3,000 horse and 2,000 infantry for the purposes of the alliance.

It was found in the campaign against the Pindarees in the cold season of that year that the contingent thus furnished by the Rajah was useless. In January A. D. 1817 Appa Sahib went away from the capital, under pretence of visiting Chanda on urgent State affairs. A few days after his departure, the Rajah was found dead in his bed,—poisoned, as it subsequently proved, by his uncle Appa Sahib.

NAGPORE.

A. D. 1811.

A. D. 1813.

A. D. 1814.

A. D. 1816.

A. D. 1816.

A. D. 1816.

A. D. 1817.

NAGPORE.
April 1817 A.D.

Pursojeee had no son, begotten or adopted ; consequently, Appa Sahib being the nearest relative to the deceased by the male line, ascended the throne before any opposition could be made by Banka Baee and her party. From this time the bearing of Appa Sahib, before so cordial to the British, underwent a speedy change. The emissaries of the Peishwa won him over to join with their master in his plots and treachery. He also joined in the schemes of Scindia, and afforded encouragement to the Pindarees; even proceeding so far as to receive into his presence the emissaries of Chetoo, and to confer on them dresses of honor. All this time, however, he was full of protestations before the Resident of good faith and feeling to the English.

During the early part of November the conduct of Appa Sahib was very suspicious. The Nagpore troops, which should have been sent on to the Nerbudda to join in the Pindaree campaign, were kept back ; there was a force already drawn around the capital of 8,000 horse and as many foot ; lastly, an active levy of troops from as far even as Malwa was commenced. The Resident on his part called in the detachment of Colonel Scott from Nugurdhun, near Ramtek, and messengers were sent to Colonel Gahan to hurry back from the neighbourhood of Hoshungabad.

November
1817 A. D.

14th November 1817 A. D.

24th November 1817 A. D.

The news from Poona of the Peishwa having now openly broken from his engagements with the British, reached Nagpore on the 14th November. On the night of the 24th, the Rajah informed Mr. Jenkins that the Peishwa had sent him a khillut, with a golden standard, and the high title of Senaputtee. He intimated his intention of receiving investiture of title and emblems in State on the following day and invited the Resident to be present at the ceremony.

Mr. Jenkins remonstrated, stating that as the Peishwa was at that moment in arms against the English, the Rajah's public acceptance of these marks of distinction was inconsistent with the terms of his alliance with our Government.

25th November 1817 A. D.

26th November 1817 A. D.

On the following day, the Rajah received the khillut in public Durbar, and afterwards proceeded to his chief camp, beyond Taklee, where, in front of his troops, he assumed with every ceremony the dignity of General-in-Chief of the armies of the Mahratta empire. The next morning an extreme measure which had been delayed to the utmost, was carried out—the brigade under Lieutenant-Colonel Hopeton Scott moved from its lines to the Residency, also occupying the double hill of Seetabuldee. This movement was executed only just in time, for a body of Arabs, stationed in a village where now stands the Railway Station, were only awaiting the final order to secure this position for themselves.

Expresses were now sent to call up General Doveton with the second division of the Deccan army from Berar.

The troops with Lieutenant-Colonel Scott were a brigade of two battalions of Madras Native Infantry, one battalion being of the 20th, the other of the 24th, both much weakened by sickness. There were

NAGPORE.

Seetabuldee.

Fight of the
26th Novem-
ber.And of the
27th.

also the Resident's escort, two companies of Native infantry, three, troops of Bengal Native cavalry, and four six-pounders manned by Europeans of the Madras Artillery.

The hill of Seetabuldee, standing close over the Residency, consists of two eminences joined by a narrow neck of ground about 300 yards in length, of considerably lesser elevation than either of the two hills. The whole surface is rock, so that it was impossible in a short time to throw up any intrenchment. Of the two eminences, that to the north is the lesser, but, being within musket range of the principal summit, its possession was of vital importance, particularly as on that side the suburbs of the City came close up to its base, and gave cover to the enemy, who throughout the 26th were seen collecting. Three hundred men of the 24th Regiment, under Captain Saddler, were posted on the smaller hill with one gun. The cavalry occupied the enclosures about the Residency just below the hill on the south; the remainder of the force, scarcely 800 men, were posted on the larger hill.

On the evening of the 26th the battle began by the Arabs from the village already mentioned opening fire on the pickets of the smaller hill. This was the signal for a general attack on the English position. The engagement lasted till about two o'clock in the morning, when it slackened somewhat on the side of the Mahrattas. Several times during the night, the Arabs had come on, sword in hand, and tried hard to carry the smaller hill, but were repulsed every time, though at the cost of many lives to the defenders. Time after time, as the ranks of the 24th regiment were thinned, help was sent down from the 20th, which was posted on the larger hill.

Dawn of the morning on the 27th November saw the English troops holding an isolated position. Eighteen thousand men, of whom nearly one-quarter were Arabs, were drawn up against them, with thirty-six guns, all brought into position during the past night.

At 5 o'clock in the morning the few remaining men of the 24th, being utterly exhausted, were withdrawn, their place being taken by the Resident's escort with orders to confine their defence to the summit of the smaller hill, which had by this time been somewhat strengthened by a breastwork of bags of grain. Thus they continued to fight till 9 o'clock, when the Arabs again charged home. Just as they gained the crest, the accidental explosion of a tumbril caused some confusion among the defenders. The sepoyes were overpowered, the lesser hill lost, and the gun, which fell into the enemy's hands, was turned against the greater hill. The brigade had now lost much of their superiority in position; from the nearness of the enemy and the fire of the gun on the lost hill, officers and men began to drop fast. The enemy's cavalry and infantry began to close in from every side, and to prepare for a general assault. To add to the perplexity of the moment, the Arabs broke into the huts of our troops, and the shrieks of their wives and children reached the ears of the sepoyes.

The three troops of Bengal cavalry, together with the Madras horsemen of the Resident's escort, had been kept all this while in the enclosures around the Residency. Their Commander, Captain Fitzgerald, now

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Charge of
Bengal
Cavalry.

formed his men outside the enclosures, and charged the principal body of the enemy's horse. The Mahrattas did not long resist the onset of this little band, but, breaking in all directions, abandoned a small battery by which they had been supported. Fitzgerald pursued them for some distance, then reforming, charged the battery, took the guns, and brought them into the Residency in triumph.

This success had been witnessed by all the infantry on the hill; and the men, before drooping from the fatigue of fifteen hours' fighting, became once more animated. A continued attack of cavalry and infantry on the Arabs was being arranged, when another tumbril on the lesser hill blew up, causing great confusion amongst the enemy. The advantage was seized; and the little hill was in a few moments again in possession of our troops, who pursued the enemy through the Arab village and spiked two guns beyond it, before they returned to their posts.

Again the Arabs were rallied, and fresh troops brought up. Just as they were ready to advance against the hill, a well timed charge around the base of it, by a single troop of cavalry under Cornet Smith, took them in the flank and finally scattered them.

The troops from the hill now made a general advance, and cleared the ground all about. By noon the enemy's artillery was carried away, and the battle was over.

The British lost 367 killed and wounded. Amongst the killed was Mr. Sotheby, of the Civil Service, who had been in attendance on the Resident throughout the engagement.

After this humiliating defeat, the Rajah hastened to disavow any connection with the attack, and to express his regret for what had occurred. His troops and guns were withdrawn from the Seetabuldee side of the City. On the 29th Colonel Gahan's detachment came in, so that the Resident's position became much stronger. Major Pitman also arrived on the 5th December with a detachment of troops belonging to the Nizam; and on the 12th the light part of General Doveton's division, five battalions of Native infantry, the 6th Bengal cavalry, a troop of horse artillery, and two Companies of the 1st Royals. The Rajah had already been informed that no communications would be held with him till his troops were disbanded.

29th November.

5th December.

12th December.

15th December.

The Resident on the 15th December demanded the unconditional surrender of the Rajah and the disbandment of his troops. Till 4 o'clock on the following morning was given for consideration. On the same afternoon all the stores, baggage and women were sent to the Seetabuldee hill under guard of the troops who had previously so gallantly defended that position. At dawn next morning the English troops took position, having their left on the Nag Nuddee, with the cavalry on their right in the open ground towards Anjee.

At 9 o'clock Appa Sahib surrendered, but his troops prepared for an obstinate resistance. To describe the ensuing battle at length would be beyond the limits of this report. It was fought on the ground lying between the Nag Nuddee, the Shukerdurrah tank, the present south-

NAGPORE.
Battle of Nagpore.

ern and old Sonegaon roads quite close to Nagpore. The Mahrattas were completely routed. They lost their whole camp with 40 elephants, 41 guns in battery, and 23 in a neighbouring dépôt.

The Mahratta chiefs who had not surrendered, being deprived of Appa Sahib's authority, lost all control over the scattered forces, which now dispersed all over the country.

16th December

But in the city a large body of Arabs and Hindoostanees held out for special terms beyond payment of all that was due to them, and would not listen to the orders of Appa Sahib to lay down their arms. They were paid their arrears, and every inducement for marching out of the country in all security offered, but without effect.

These men, occupying a number of separate houses, the only approach to which was by narrow lanes, maintained for some days a stout resistance. At last however they capitulated.

The articles of capitulation were not signed till the 29th or the 30th. This brave garrison departed with a safe-conduct to Berar.

29th and 30th December.

After the reduction of the city, the Resident, not having yet received full instructions from the Government of India, began to treat with Appa Sahib for his restoration to the throne. The terms offered to him were that he should cede to the British the hill of Seetabuldee, and some lands adjoining; that in lieu of all subsidy he should cede the Mahratta districts in the Nerbudda valley, and that he should allow, for a time, full military possession of the country to the English. These negotiations eventually received the assent of the Governor General. Appa Sahib was replaced on the throne, and the division of General Doveton proceeded westward, to help in taking the forts in the territory then recently ceded by Holkar, and in the pursuit of the flying Peishwa.

A. D. 1818.

No sooner had General Doveton's troops left Nagpore, than Appa Sahib renewed his intrigues, raised the Gonds, and sent secret instructions to the Killadars not to surrender the forts, which they were holding, to the English; and, finally he applied for assistance to Bajee Rao. Even within a day's march of the capital, the wild Gonds were burning Mugurdhokra, Ambgaon, and other villages belonging to the Banka Baee, the Rajah's political opponent. He sent messages for help, to the Peishwa, and arranged for his own escape to Chanda. Sir R. Jenkins now arrested the Rajah, and it was determined that he should be confined for life in Hindooostan. He was sent under escort towards Allahabad, but on the road he managed to corrupt his guard, and escaped in the dress of a sepoy. He fled to the Mahadeo hills, where he was joined by Cheetoo, the last of the Pindaree leaders. He ultimately escaped, first to Asseergurh, and then to the Punjab.

5th March
1818.
13th May 1818.

On the final deposition of Appa Sahib, a maternal grandchild of Rughojee II. was adopted by the widows of his grandfather. He took the name of Bhonslah, and was recognized as Rajah Rughojee III. on the same terms as were granted to Appa Sahib in 1816. A Regency was established, at the head of which was the Banka Baee, widow

A. D. 1818.

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of the second Rughojee. She had the care of the young Rajah's person, but the Resident superintended and administered every department of the State through officers appointed by himself.

A. D. 1830.

In the year 1830, during the Residentship of the Hon'ble R. Caven-dish, and four years after the departure of Sir R. Jenkins, from the scene of his labours, the Rajah was permitted to assume the actual government. The time of the Rajah's minority, when the country was administered by British Officers under the Resident, is still remembered with favour by the people.

A. D. 1818 to 1836.

Nothing occurred to disturb the peace at large during the next seventeen years; the country was quiet and prosperous; and the greater security, afforded by a firm and just rule, was a great stimulus to banking and trade. In the year A. D. 1848 an imposter named Rug-hobartee Gosacee, pretending to be Appa Sahib, raised an insurrection in Berar, but the disturbance did not extend to Nagpore.

A. D. 1853.

Rughojee III. died in December 1853 without a child, begotten or adopted. The Marquis of Dalhousie, then Governor General, declared that the State of Nagpore had lapsed to the paramount power. This order was confirmed by the Court of Directors of the late East India Company and by the Crown, and Nagpore became a British Province.

Bhonslab polity.

It may be well here to attempt a brief examination into the composition of the Government under the Bhonslals. The Bhonslals, at least the first four of them, were military chiefs, with the habits of rough soldiers, connected by blood and by constant familiar intercourse, with every principal officer. Descended from the class of cultivators, they ever favoured and fostered that order. They were rapacious indeed, yet seldom cruel to the lower classes.

Cadets of the royal house.

The prince regnant was far from absolute, as we have seen; the younger brothers held portions of the kingdom as appanages; they were bound to serve the Rajah as their feudal chief, but held their own independent courts, and full management of their own territories. The near relations of the family had a voice in all matters of moment.

Courtiers.

When the great Rughojee I. came into Berar, certain Officers of State were sent with him, for whom he had to provide. The Durruck-dars and Mankurries often acted as spies on him, always looking to Poona as their home, and working in the interests of the Peishwa.

Officers of State.

After the members of the reigning family and other immediate connections among the Mankurries in degree, came the civil and military functionaries. Of these, the Dewan was at the head of all departments of the State, the Phurnavees was the accountant, the Wurar Pandiya, (originally an officer under the Gonds,) was keeper of the "Lagwun Records" which showed the actual state of cultivation, occupancy and rents of land. This would be a very important office in a State where the land assessments were annual. The Chitnavees was the Chief Secretary, and the Moonshee was Secretary for Foreign affairs, while

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the Siccanuvees was keeper of the great seal. These offices were considered hereditary ; where the person inheriting office was unfit, the department was managed by deputy, but a portion of the emoluments went to the support of hereditary office-bearer.

The principal military Officers were the Sardustur, or Controller of army estates, the Mir Bukshee, or Pay Master General, the Pagahnuvees or Controller of the body guard, and a similar officer for the artillery.

Officers of the army.

The Subadars of Provinces held military and civil command within their respective local jurisdictions. These officers were for the most part paid by Jageers, or by other grants of land on exceptionally favourable terms. There were no separate officers employed exclusively in the Judicial or Police departments. Important suits of a civil nature and heinous crimes were decided by the Rajah himself, or sometimes by Punchayets in open Durbar. Petty affairs were settled by the revenue officers in the districts, and by specially appointed Courts in the City.

Judiciary.

Bhonslah administration.

Of the success of the Mahratta administration, we may say that from their first arrival up to A. D. 1792 the country was on the whole prosperous, the revenue and the area of cultivation had then reached their maximum ; but after that date misrule and oppressive assessment reduced the condition of the whole country. When Berar and Cuttack were lost to Rughojee II., he would not reduce his army and expenditure in proportion to his lessened revenue. In the districts near Nagpore, many petty and hitherto unheard of taxes were imposed, and a system of taking "Nuzzurs" resorted to. In more remote districts, large tracts were given in Jageer to military leaders for the support of their troops. Added to these causes for retrogression, the country was being overrun, year after year by the Pindarees. The short reign of Appa Sahib was marked by still greater exaction than had prevailed under Rughojee II.; land fell out of cultivation, and patel or ryot alike was involved in debt, from which he was only able to extricate himself during the wise rule of Sir Richard Jenkins. It is remarkable that between A. D. 1820 and 1825, the total area of cultivation had increased twelve per cent.

In their lives the general classes of the people seem ever to have been quiet, abstemious, and temperate ; and the women, even of the highest classes, enjoyed much more personal freedom than is common in most parts of India. Their lives were simple, the manners boorish. They were capital colonists and farmers.

The state of the people:

There seems never to have been any large permanent military population, looking to the sword as their inheritance. The cavalry was mostly raised in the Poona country. The Silladars who took service here never regarded Nagpore as their home. The "clouds of Mahratta horsemen," of whom we often read, never could have applied to the Nagpore indigenous armies.

of the army.

On the whole, it seems certain that the earlier Bhonslahs, rapacious as they were as regards the territory of their neighbours, were not addicted

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to oppression at home. On the other hand, from the second Rughojee's time, the Pindaree incursions and oppressive taxation caused much suffering amongst the peaceful inhabitants.

Nagpore Statesmen.

Among all the Native rulers and chiefs of whom mention has been made in these pages, there are four names still cherished in the district for having made the welfare of the people the chief aim of their lives,—first the Gond, Bukht Boolund; then the Mahratta, Rajah Janojee, "the settler of what his father only conquered," with his soldierly General and able civil officer, Rughojee Kurandia, who was "like a father to the people committed to his charge;" lastly, the good widow of Rughojee II, the Banka Baee, who throughout her long and useful life, was as much distinguished as the protectress of her own people as by her steady support to the English, and to the cause of order and good government.

A. D. 1853 to 1861.

From 1853 till 1861, the dominions of the late Rajah were administered by a commission of officers, at whose head was the Commissioner of the "Nagpore Province." The even course of affairs in that period was broken only by the local events connected with the great Mutiny and disturbances of 1857-58. A brief sketch of these may perhaps appropriately close this long section.

A. D. 1857.

It has never been discovered that any special communications from other quarters had been received *previous* to the outbreak of the Bengal army by those parties in Nagpore who about the very beginning of the Mutiny became more or less disturbed. The "Chupparees" had indeed been circulated, but here, as in other parts of India, their import was certainly not understood by the bulk of the people, amongst whom they failed to attract any particular attention.

April.

There was noticed, however, about the end of April, on the part of some of the leading Mahomedans of the City an unwonted opposition to the orders of Government on the subject of extra-mural sepulture. This opposition was met by decisive action, intra-mural sepulture was prohibited, and the order was obeyed but not without covert hints that the time for issue of orders by any British Government was not far from its close. The behaviour of the Mussulmans was from this time carefully watched.

May.

At the beginning of May 1857, Mr. Plowden was Commissioner of the Nagpore Province; the officer in charge of the district was Mr. Ellis,* of the Madras Civil Service; his Assistant Commissioner was Mr. Ross, the present Settlement Officer of Nagpore; the troops stationed at Nagpore were all of them belonging to the Nagpore irregular force; they consisted of a regiment of irregular cavalry, mostly composed of Mahomedans, and many of them connected by relationship with the Mahomedans of Nagpore, a battery of light field artillery, and the 1st Regiment, irregular infantry; these last were mostly Hindooostanees; the Canton-

Nagpore garrison.

* Mr. R. S. Ellis, C.B. the present distinguished member (for Madras,) of the Legislative Council of India.

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May.

ment of Kamptee was garrisoned by Madras troops, consisting of two European batteries of artillery, one regiment of native cavalry, and two regiments Native Infantry,

Intelligence of the calamities at Meerut and Delhi arrived at Nagpore before the end of May; and it seems that immediately after this a scheme for rising was concocted in the lines of the irregular cavalry in conjunction with the Mussulmans of the city. Secret nightly meetings in the city had been discovered by Mr. Ellis; and the Scotch Church Missionaries, who had schools, and some influence in the city, had given warning that the public mind was much disturbed.

13th June.

The rising was fixed for the night of the 13th of June, when the ascent of a fire balloon from the City was to have given the signal to the cavalry. But just before, probably to allay suspicion, the cavalry had formally volunteered for service, and had asked to be led against the mutineers in Upper India. On the 13th, one squadron of the regiment received orders to march towards Seonee as part of a force moving to the north from Kamptee. This was just a few hours before the time fixed, and it took them by surprise. A Duffadar by name Daood Khan was deputed to the infantry lines to rouse the regiment to action. Daood Khan was at once seized and confined by the first man whom he addressed. Mr. Ellis and Mr. Ross, as soon as they had been made aware, through information communicated by one Poorun Singh, the jail darogah, of certain suspicious movements in the Cavalry lines, at once communicated personally with Captain Wood, second in command of the cavalry. At Captain Wood's house it was discovered that the regiment were saddling their horses. It was now past 10 o'clock at night, and by this time the alarm was general. Mr. Ellis sent the ladies of the station for safety to Kainptee; and troops were summoned from that place. Meantime the arsenal had been cared for by Major Bell, Commissary of Ordnance. Loaded cannon were brought up to command the entrance and approaches, while a small detachment of Madras sepoys proceeded to the Seetabuldee hill, and got all the guns in position. The behaviour of these last was such as to remove any anxiety as to the Madras troops having been tampered with. But at this juncture, until the arrival of troops from Kamptee, everything depended on the temper of the irregular infantry and artillery. The Officer commanding the infantry was prostrate from wounds received from a tiger, the only other Officer of the regiment was away from the station. Accordingly, Lieutenant Cumberlege, the Commissioner's Personal Assistant, who had previously been with this regiment, proceeded to their lines, and took temporary command. He found that the regiment had fallen in of their own accord on their parade ground, most ready and willing to execute any orders. The battery of artillery, commanded by Captain Playfair, evinced a spirit equally good.

Mutiny prevented.

Having made sure of these portions of the troops, Mr. Ellis now went down to the City. Everything was found perfectly tranquil. The conspirators must have become aware that the authorities were on the alert, that their co-operators in the cavalry had failed to get the infantry to join, and were now hesitating. The fire balloon was never sent up.

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The cavalry, when they heard of the fate of their emissary, seem to have lost all heart. They unsaddled their horses and remained quiet. Subsequently they were turned out on foot without their arms, the infantry and the artillery being drawn up in position fronting and flanking them. It was in vain that efforts were made to induce them to name the ringleaders, or those who had been saddling their horses.

June.

The Duffadar who had been seized in the infantry lines was tried by Court-martial on the next day, and condemned to death. The behaviour of the Native officers of the cavalry had been closely watched by Mr. Ellis. The senior Resaldar, the "Wordee Major," and a Kote Duffadar were arrested. Within a few days, chiefly through the instrumentality of a Native gentleman, Tuffoozool Hoosain Khan, whose loyalty had been throughout conspicuous, complete evidence was brought forward, by means of which these three, together with another Resaldar and a Jemadar, were convicted. They were hanged from the ramparts of the fort overlooking the City. Also from among the Mussulmans of the City, two persons were executed, viz. the Nowab Qadir Ali Khan and Vilayut Meean, both men of high family and position. The bulk of the treasure was now removed for security to the fort on the upper Seetabullee hill, into which and the arsenal situated at its foot, a supply of provisions for three months was speedily thrown.

1st June.

On the 24th June the cavalry were disarmed. Their arms and accoutrements were removed to the arsenal. The men were kept till November under surveillance in their own lines. In November they were again armed, and employed towards Sumbulpore, where they performed their duties well.

Besides this, there was no actual disturbance within the district of Nagpore. In the cavalry there had been one squadron composed almost entirely of Mahrattas, and these seem to have been implicated just as much as the Mussulmans, for, amongst a number of Officers and men expelled from the regiment, were one Mahratta Resaldar, one Naib Resaldar, and two troopers. The vast majority of the population having hitherto remained quiescent, and the fidelity of the Madras force at Kamptee being now placed beyond question, the local crisis was passed.

For the skill, the forethought, the judgment, and the resolution with which affairs were managed in the City up to the time of the crisis, for the discovery of the meetings, for the subsequent watch put on the conspirators, and for the promptitude with which punishment fell on the chief offenders, no small meed of praise is due to Mr. Ellis and to his co-adjutor Mr. Ross. And it ought not to be forgotten that here again the aged Princess Banka Baee brought all her influence to bear on the side of the authorities in dealing with the doubtfully inclined Mahrattas connected with the late reigning family, when the southern Mahratta country was much disturbed, and was looking to Nagpore as to a beacon, when too the turbulent subjects in the north of the Nizam's territory could hardly have remained quiet had there been any serious difficulty at Nagpore.

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The course of events after the year 1857 cannot be treated under this section; unless to mention that the necessity for guarding against any irruption into the Nagpore Province by the ubiquitous Tantea Topee, who had at the close of the year 1858 crossed the Nerbudda, east of Hoshungabad, was met by sending out to the banks of the Wurdah river, from Kamptee a column consisting of one troop European horse artillery, the 7th Madras cavalry, and the 23rd Madras Native infantry, under Colonel Osborne, with Mr. Ross as civil officer; while Major Henry Shakespear, with a body of irregular cavalry, accompanied by Lieutenant Cumberlege in his civil capacity, proceeded to the Chindwara district. The effect of these dispositions was, that Tantea Topee, who had penetrated as far as, and burnt Mooltye, in the Baitool district, was turned off in an easterly direction, when he was met by a column from Oomraotee under Brigadier Hill, defeated, and again driven northwards.

It remains only to add that, in the year 1861, the "Nagpore Province" was amalgamated with the Provinces known as the "Saugor and Nerbudda Territories," the whole forming the present "Central Provinces," with the head-quarters of the administration at Nagpore.

The method of revenue, general, and judicial administration, may be noticed very briefly as it is precisely the same as in other districts belonging to these and to other Provinces in India, governed under what is termed the non-regulation system.

Section V.
General
administra-
tion and reve-
nue.

Deputy Com-
missioner.

The Deputy Commissioner, or head executive and administrative officer in the district, is collector of the general revenue in all its branches, the head civil Judge, and the chief Magistrate. He is charged also with general control over the Police, with the superintendence of Public Instruction, with the collection and expenditure of local funds, with the construction of *local* public works, and with other general and miscellaneous duties, which it is needless here to mention.

To assist him in his revenue, judicial and miscellaneous duties, the Deputy Commissioner of Nagpore has generally four Assistant, or Extra-Assistant Commissioners, who are Assistant or Deputy Collectors, Assistant Magistrates, and Assistant Civil Judges. At the head-quarters of each of the* four Sub-divisions or Tehseels is a Tehseeldar, who is in his turn Sub-collector, and Subordinate Magistrate, and Civil Judge. Sometimes the Naib-Tehseeldar, or Deputy Sub-collector, has jurisdiction in petty civil suits.

Assistants.

As regards certain special Departments, the Deputy Commissioner works through special ministerial offices (at the head of each department) such as the District Superintendent of Police, the Inspector of Schools, and others.

* The four sub-divisions are—Nagpore, Oomrair, Ramtek, and Katole.

NAGPORE.**Criminal Courts.**

There are at present nine stipendiary Magistrates' Courts, subordinate to the Deputy Commissioner as follows :—

<i>Court.</i>	<i>Powers.</i>
1 Cantonment Magistrate of Kaniptee.	Full magisterial powers up to 2 years' imprisonment, and 1,000 rupees fine.
3 Assistant Commissioners....	Do. Do.
1 Do. Do.	Subordinate magisterial powers up to 6 months' imprisonment, and 200 rupees fine.
2 Tehseeldars. ...	Powers of Subordinate Magistrate, 1st Class, up to 6 months' imprisonment, or 200 rupees fine.
2 Tehseeldars. ...	Powers of Subordinate Magistrate, 2nd Class, powers up to 1 month's imprisonment, and 50 rupees fine.

The Deputy Commissioner's Court has powers up to sentence of seven years' transportation, or imprisonment, and unlimited fine.

There are also 15 non-stipendiary, or Honorary Magistrates. The Native gentlemen presiding over these Courts answer in some respects to Justices of the Peace in England. They decide a considerable number of cases. The Deputy Commissioner, the Cantonment Magistrate of Kamptee, and generally two of the Assistant Commissioners are also Justices of the Peace with jurisdiction to try and punish European offenders in petty cases, and to commit for felonies to the High Court at Bombay.

Civil Courts.

The Civil Judicial Courts are at present ten in number, *viz* :—

<i>Court.</i>	<i>Grade according to Act constituting Civil Courts of Central Pro- vinces.</i>	<i>Jurisdiction in suits up to.</i>
Deputy Commissioner.	Sixth.	unlimited.
Senior Station Court, Assistant Commissioner.	Fifth.	Rs. 5,000
Junior Station Court, Assistant Commissioner.	Third.	500
Court of Small Causes, Nagpore. (Special Civil Court).	...	1,000
Court of Small Causes, Kamptee. (Cantonment Magistrate Kamptee.)	...	500
Court of Tehseeldar, Nagpore.	Second.	300

Courts.	Grade according to Act constituting Civil Courts of Central Pro- vinces.	Jurisdiction in suits up to.	NAGPORE
			Rs.
Court of Tehseeldar, Ram- tek.	First.	...	100
Court of Tehseeldar, Oom- rair.	First.	...	100
Court of Tehseeldar, Ka- tole.	Second.	...	300
Court of Naib Tehseeldar, • Oomrair.	..	...	50

Appeals from the decisions of the Civil Courts of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Grades, and from the decisions in the Civil Courts of the 1st and 2nd Grades of Subordinate Magistrates are heard in the Deputy Commissioner's Court. Appeals from the decisions in the Civil Court of the 5th and 6th (the Deputy Commissioner's Court) grades, and from the magisterial decisions of the Deputy Commissioner and Magistrates with full powers, lie to the Court of the Commissioner of the Nagpore Division.

The Civil and Criminal Courts of the Deputy Commissioner and the Assistant Commissioners, ordinarily sit in the head-quarters of the district,—Seetabuldee, a suburb of Nagpore; the Nagpore Court of Small Causes, and Civil and Criminal Courts of the Tehseeldar of Nagpore sit in the City of Nagpore. The Cantonment Magistrate of Kamptee holds his Civil and Criminal Courts in the Cantonment. Of the Honorary Magistrates, thirteen hold their Courts at Nagpore, one at Kamptee, and one in Mhopa.

Site of Courts.

The Divisional Commissioner's Court is held at Taklee,—another suburb of Nagpore. On the Civil side it is an Appellate Court only. On the Criminal side it is a Sessions Court, with powers up to 14 years' imprisonment, and transportation for life, and is competent also to pass sentence of death, subject to confirmation by the Court of the Judicial Commissioner of the Provinces.

The whole of the district administration, whether in the revenue, judicial, or miscellaneous departments is subject to the general supervision and control of the Divisional Commissioner, who superintends besides this district, the four neighbouring districts of Bhundara, Wurdah, Chanda, and Balaghat.

Police.

The constabulary force consists of two distinct bodies,—the District Police, and the Town Police. The former are paid from the general revenues, and are available for service throughout the Central Provinces; the latter are paid from the municipal funds of the towns in which they are stationed; and theoretically their duties are confined to that town alone. In practice, however, it is often found advisable to extend their jurisdiction over a considerable neighbouring area.

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The District Superintendent of Police (always an English Officer, who ordinarily has under him a European Assistant) is at the head of the whole force.

The strength of the entire Police Force is as follows :—

	<i>District Police.</i>	<i>Town Police.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
District Superintendent	...	1	1
Assistant Do.	...	1	1
Nagpore City Do.	...	1	1
*Inspectors	...	3	5
Chief Constables	...	11	21
Head Do.	...	57	135
†Constables	...	448	924
Boy Orderlies	...	6	15
Mounted } Duffadars	2
Police } Sowars	67
Grand totals ...	527	576	1,172

The total population of the District being 634,121 ; and the total square mileage 3,682, the Police are thus as one to every 541 persons, and as one to every 3.63 square miles.

Imperial revenues.

The Government revenues are derived from the land tax, excise on spirits, opium, and drugs; stamps, forests, salt, "pandhari," and a few miscellaneous petty taxes.

Land revenue.

The land revenue demand for the year 1866-67 was Rs. 7,95,941 As all details of information respecting land tenures and assessment will be separately supplied in a succeeding section, it will be sufficient to say here that this branch of revenue will remain fixed at the same, or almost at the same annual amount until the close of the present settlement.

Excise.

The excise revenue in the year 1866-67 amounted to Rs. 2,29,888. The duty is at present levied under what is termed the contract system, which consists in the annual sale by auction of the monopoly of right to manufacture and sell spirits within the specified places, or tracts of country into which the district is for this purpose divided. There are at present six of these monopolies,—one for the City of Nagpore, one for the cantonment of Kamptee, and one for each of the four Tehseelees.

The new method (or the central distillery system), is to be introduced from the 1st May 1867*. It consists in the prescription of certain places in which alone spirits may be manufactured, and the payment of a fixed duty on removal by licensed vendors; and the tendency is to diminish consumption, but to prevent any large fiscal loss by the higher duty levied on the diminished amount manufactured. It is believed that the revenue will not suffer by the change.

* Two of these are Europeans.

† Includes two European Constables for Nagpore City and Station.

The revenue realized on opium and drugs is obtained chiefly by leasing out monopolies of right to sell by retail, and in some small part, by fees levied on the cultivation of the poppy. The total revenue from this source for 1866-67 was Rs. 25,016.

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Opium and
drugs.

From the stamp revenue of 1866-67 realized under the rules of the Stamp Act (Act X. of 1862) was obtained the sum of Rs. 1,23,366-3-0. The increase in this branch depends on the increase in commercial transactions, and litigation, and on the efficiency of the arrangements for the detection and punishment of offences against the Stamp laws. This source of revenue is in a flourishing state.

Stamp.

The unreserved forests and waste lands of the district are for the most part let out on usufruct leases, and thus afford a considerable amount of revenue. The system has been introduced of leasing out the right to collect or levy dues on minor forest produce only, to wit, grass, mowha and other fruits, gums, firewood, and the like,—the district authorities reserving the right to duty on all timber excepting firewood. This plan has been found to answer well. The area from which this revenue is produced will annually diminish, as the plots are disposed of under existing waste land and clearance lease rules. These rules permit the sale in freehold of all waste lands at a minimum price of Rs. 2-8-0 per acre, and provide for their disposal on long leases conditional on final clearance and reclamation. But it is hardly necessary to say, that any loss thus effected in annual revenue will be more than counterbalanced by the proceeds of sale in the one case, and by the additional area ultimately brought under assessment in the other. The forest revenues of 1866-67 amounted to Rs. 14,030.

Forest and
waste lands.

The pandhari is a tax peculiar to this part of the country, and has the sanction of long usage. It was levied under the Mahrattas, nominally on all non-agriculturists, and was calculated on the ostensible means of each rate-payer. It has generally been referred in its principles to the nature of a house-tax; but, without doubt, there used to be many non-agricultural house-holders specially and somewhat arbitrarily exempted; nor was much care taken to equalize its incidence so as to distribute it equitably over the rate-paying population. The tax, however, is one to which the people are accustomed, and not indisposed. It provides moreover a legitimate means of making the non-agricultural classes pay their fair share towards the expenses of the State. The assessment lists have recently been revised; an improvement has been made, by exempting many of the poorer classes, while the result on the whole has been a large increase in revenue. Act XIV. of 1867 has now placed this tax on a firm basis. This impost yielded Rs. 83,307 in 1866-67.

Pandhari.

The revenue under the heading miscellaneous is unimportant. It consists of royalties on certain quarries, oil mills, fisheries, and the like.

Miscellaneous
revenue.

There remains under general revenues only salt tax. This is levied not under district arrangements, but by a special department (the Customs). The duty is three rupees per maund of 82lbs. Half of this sum is levied as the imports cross the great Central Provinces' cordon, only a very short portion of which is in the Nagpore district, and is credited to the Central Provinces' revenue. The other half is realized at the salt-pans on the Western Coast; and is credited to the Bombay revenues.

Salt ax.

NAGPORE.**Local revenues****Road and School cesses.**

The local revenues, or the funds spent *in the district*, arise from the road, school, and post cesses; from the nuzzool and ferry funds; and from octroi.

The road and school cesses are paid by the landholders, and are calculated at the rate of two per cent respectively on the full assessment rate (Kamil Jumma) of each estate. The revenue in 1866-67 under these two heads was Rs. 35,070; or for each, Rs. 17,535. The proceeds are applied to the purposes which their ~~de nom~~ nations import,—the first to the repair and construction of local roads, the latter to the maintenance of rural schools. The former since the year 1865-67 has been augmented by large grants from the Municipal funds of the towns most benefited by the construction of local lines and railway feeders; the latter forms only a part of the educational funds; the remainder accruing partly from other local sources, such as grants from Municipal funds, and voluntary contributions, and partly from State grants-in-aid.

Postal cess.

Similarly, the dak or postal cess, imposed for local postal service, is a tax on the proprietors of land. The rate is one-half per cent on the full assessment of each estate. The funds realized under this head are not spent exclusively in the district. The realizations from every district in the Province are lumped together, and an allotment up to the amount of its own actual requirements is then made to each district. The amount raised under this head during the year 1866-67 was Rs 4,436.

Nuzzool.

The "Nuzzool" consists of the annual proceeds of rent, farm usufruct profits, or sale of buildings, lands, orchards, gardens, and other real property, the property of Government, and not subjected to assessment to land revenue. This is a very important heading of local revenues. The proceeds are spent in keeping the different Government buildings, and gardens in good order and repair, in defrayment of charges for model farms, purchase of improved agricultural implements, livestock, in horticulture, arboriculture, experiments with foreign cotton and cereals, and in other matters intended to promote the good of the people, and the general advancement of the district in agricultural and commercial prosperity. Rupees 8,869-2-11 were realized from this source in the year 1866-67.

Ferry fund.

The ferry fund, as its name imports, consists of the proceeds of fees levied at ferries, or from the annual sale of ferry contracts. It is supplemented by the profits of pounds and other minor headings, and is expended in purchase and repair of boats, improvement of ghats, or approaches to rivers, and such like matters. The proceeds in 1866-67 amounted to Rs. 1,262.

Municipal funds.

The most important of the local revenues is the octroi. This tax is levied in no less than twenty-six towns. The administration of these funds (after the deduction of cost of town Police) is entrusted to the different Municipal Committees. The right to collect octroi is let out in annual contracts, separately for each town. The tax is one to which the people have long been accustomed during the Mahratta Government under the name of "Sayer." Generally it is paid with the utmost contentment, and is certainly the form of local tax most suitable to the

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inhabitants of this part of India. The Mahratta "Sayer" was in reality more a transit than an octroi duty. But pains have been taken to re-constitute it on a proper basis; and now no imports, but those intended for actual local sale or consumption are subjected to duty.

This branch of local revenue is the main source from which funds have been derived to carry out the extensive Municipal improvements which have been going forward for the last few years. The impost is regulated so as to fall lightly, except on certain articles; and the schedules have just been revised so as to make the burden lighter than ever. Until the year 1866-67 the system was, for each town to expend its own funds exclusively on its own improvements, and this plan is still followed in the case of Nagpore and Kamptee. But with regard to the other towns, it has now been determined to make large grants of Municipal funds in aid of the general District Road fund. And there can be but little doubt that this was a most advisable measure, for the road cess by itself is totally insufficient properly to open out local communications, and it can in no way be more fairly supplemented than by large grants from the towns which are the most immediate partakers of the benefit arising from improved inter-communication. Municipal and communicational improvements will now proceed simultaneously: the one forming the suitable complement to the other. As each town is improved within itself, so it will obtain extended means of communication with its fellows, and with the great arterial lines of traffic. The octroi funds of the Municipal towns in 1866-67 reached the large sum of Rs. 3,07,050; of which, Rs. 52,489 were set apart for watch and ward; Rs. 33,349 for grants-in-aid to district road fund; and the remainder spent in Municipal improvements.

The following table will show the receipts of revenue under the different heads, imperial and local, for the last four years:—

Description of revenue.	Proceeds in			
	1863-64.	1864-65.	1865-66.	1866-67
<i>Imperial.</i>				
Land Revenue	8 90 787	7 94 483	8 01 247	*7 96 941
Excise	2 19 841	1 99 895	2 00 797	2 29 888
Opium and other Drugs	26 627	19 487	23 828	25 016
Stamps	1 00 605	1 05 207	1 13 228	1 23 366
Forests .....	..	21 253	16 417	14 000
Pandhari	17 300	8 154	70 833	83 307
Miscellaneous petty Taxes	69 524	23 837	5 979	2 935
Total Imperial Local	13 24 684	11 72 316	12 32 329	12 75453
Road Cess	10 509	11 158	17 714	17 535
Ferry Fund	3 284	3 705	3 347	1 262
Nuzzool	3 791	6 673	5 857	8 860
School Cess	9 022	9 831	17 714	17 535
Postal Cess	108	110	3 726	4 436
Ostroi	1 50 281	1 99 225	2 99 375	3 07 050
Total Local	176 995	2 30 202	3 47 733	3 56 687
Grand Total	15 01 679	14 02 518	15 80 062	16 32 140

*Includes a trifling sum of 1,500 odd rupees, on account of miscellaneous land revenue cesses.

NAGPORE.**Section VI.
Population.**

The total population as ascertained by the census taken in November 1866, may be classed thus:—

1 Europeans and Eurasians	...	...	...	*2,462
2 Parsees	...	...	...	28
3 Hindoos of all classes	...	...	...	573,562
4 Musulmans	...	...	...	27,371
5 Gonds and other aboriginal tribes	...	...	...	30,698

Total ... 634,121

Density of Population.

The population is 172 to the square mile. When it is considered that 1,841 square miles of the district is uncultivated, this rate will not appear very low for this part of India.

Classification according to sexes.

The adult males are	..	..	..	218,890
“ adult females are	..	..	..	200,861
“ male infants are	...	...	...	113,996
“ female infants are	...	...	...	100,374

Hindoo Castes

The Hindoo tribes of all sorts are, as follows:—

1 Brahmans	...	...	...	...	26,597
2 Rajpoots	...	...	...	...	3,458
3 Mahrattas, Koenbees and cognate Mahratta tribes	...	...	...	...	177,183
4 Purdesees, Telees, Malees, Aheers, Pardhans and Barees	..	..	..	..	106,483
5 Vidhoors (mostly) illegitimate descendants of Brahmans	..	..	..	..	5,094
6 Buniahs, Powars, Marwarees, Hulwaees and Kulals	..	..	..	..	17,118
7 Gosaens	...	...	...	...	5,203

Total ... 341,136

8 Kasars, Seepees, Sonars, Gooroos, Baldars, Baraies, Koshtees, Dhabees, Katicks, Nais, Bhoees, Dheemurs, Bunjarees, Madrassee castes, Bhamtees, and Rungarees	..	..	..	118,019
9 Outcastes, consisting of Dhers, Chumars, Mangs and Bungees	..	..	..	114,407

Total ... 573,562

Gonds.

The tribes described as “Gond or other aboriginal tribes” consist almost entirely of Gonds; there are a very few Koorkoos and Bheels (mostly cultivators).

Mussulmans.

The Mussulmans, divided under the customary great divisions, are as follows:—

Sheiks	...	..	..	..	..	14,838
Syuds	...	..	..	..	..	5,392
Moghuls	...	..	..	..	..	388
Puthans	..	..	..	..	..	6,753

Total .. 27,371

* NOTE.—Includes the military Force at Kamptee and Nagpore.

Under the Sheikh class are included all Mussulmans whose tribe does not come distinctly under any one of the other three classes. The Mussulmans are thus to the Hindoos and Gonds as 1 to 22.

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The following table shows the manner in which the different professions are distributed amongst the population. Women and children are classed according to the occupation of the head of the family.

Classification
according to
trades, profes-
sions, and
occupations.

Landholders	..	..	..	..	..	3,258
Tenants	..	..	..	..	..	183,848
Farm servants	..	..	..	..	..	83,676
Cowherds, shepherds, &c.	..	..	..	..	..	1,921
						<hr/>
			Total of agriculturists	..	272,703	
Bankers, money lenders &c...	..	..	..	..	..	22,964
Priests	..	..	..	..	..	11,504
Grain sellers	..	..	..	..	..	10,692
Cloth and English goods Merchants	..	..	..	..	..	47,228
Grocers, (Punsurees)	..	..	..	..	..	4,860
Tobaccoonists	..	..	..	..	..	1,031
Confectioners (Hulwaees)	..	..	..	..	..	298
Washermen (Dhobees)	..	..	..	..	..	4,352
Workers in iron	..	..	..	..	..	5,762
,, gold and silver	..	..	..	..	..	6,025
,, copper and brass	..	..	..	..	..	1,289
Carpenters	..	..	..	..	..	10,039
Masons	..	..	..	..	..	4,597
Weavers	..	..	..	..	..	21,321
Potters	..	..	..	..	..	3,030
Rope makers	..	..	..	..	..	945
Pan sellers	..	..	..	..	..	1,492
Carriers (Brinjarahs)	..	..	..	..	..	2,335
Barbers	..	..	..	..	..	7,458
Butchers	..	..	..	..	..	614
Coolees	..	..	..	..	..	82,872
Tailors	..	..	..	..	..	3,140
Pleaders	..	..	..	..	..	37
Servants	..	..	..	..	..	56,456
Liquor sellers	..	..	..	..	..	4,627
Shoe-makers	..	..	..	..	..	6,042
Oil sellers	2,653
Dyers	2,316
Miscellaneous	35,439
			<hr/>			
			Total Non-agriculturists	..	361,418	

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Numerical preponderance of the non-agricultural classes.

The preponderance in numbers of the non-agricultural over the agricultural classes is very striking. To this circumstance is to be traced the formation of the large number of Qusbahs or non-agricultural townships in the district. The manner in which these "village towns" were first established will be alluded to in a succeeding page.

Order of time according to which the more important tribes settled in the district.

A very brief account of the order of time in which the different castes settled in the district, may not be out of place. In Bukht Boolund's time (A. D. 1,700) the bulk of the population was undoubtedly Gond; but during his reign, and possibly to a slight extent before it, there had set in an immigration of Brahmins and Koonbees from Berar and the West, and of Mussulmans and Hindoos of all castes from Hindooostan. Bukht Boolund's visits to Delhi had set before him the superiority of foreigners over his subjects in all branches of industry. He encouraged foreigners to settle, by granting them unredeemed or partially redeemed tracts, on very favourable terms; and furthermore, rewarded foreigners in his own military and administrative services by large grants. These persons again induced numbers of their fellow countrymen to settle as cultivators; and so, long before the arrival of the first Rughojee, the wild original tribes (never probably more than sparsely distributed over the face of the country) had begun to recede before the more skilful and superior settlers. Yet the great influx of the Brahmins, Mahrattas, Koonbees, Koshtees, and Dhers, doubtless did not commence until the usurpation of the Gond sovereignty by Rughojee in A. D. 1743, when Booran Shah, Bukht Boolund's descendant was deposed. Before these tribes the Gonds gradually receded into the mountain tracts leaving most of the cultivated and culturable tracts in the hands of the newcomers. The Gonds are now as 1 to 18 of the strictly Hindoo population.

The Mussulmans have come from all directions: some from the Delhi country, some from Berar and the west, but probably the greatest number from the Nizam's dominions in the south. Only a very few trace their ancestry in these parts as far back as the time of Bukht Boolund. By far the greater portion came with and after the Mahrattas.

Language.

The language of the bulk of the population is Mahratta, but Oordoo (excepting amongst the women) is generally understood. The language of the country people is not pure Mahratta, but a *patois* consisting of an ungrammatical mixture of the two languages.

Religion.

There is nothing in the religion or in the customs of either Hindoos or Mussulmans especially peculiar to this part of the country. The Brahmins profess to worship Brahma, Vishnoo and Siva equally. It is probable however that Siva is most worshipped. The Mahrattas, Koonbees, Koshtees and even the out-caste Dhers (the classes forming the great bulk of the population) almost exclusively worship Siva under the appellation Mahadeo. The Marwarees are almost all Jains, worshippers of Parisnath.

The agricultural classes are chiefly Koonbees, Mahrattas, Purdeesees, Telees, Lodees, Malees, Barees and Pardhans. The best, as well as most numerous, are without doubt the Koonbees. They are simple, frugal, and generally honest in their dealings with each other. In general industry, in capability for sustained labour and in agricultural skill, they will bear no comparison with the Jats and other good cultivators of Upper India.

NAGPUR:
Agricultural classes:

The Brahmins follow many different professions. They are priests, shopkeepers, grain-sellers, bankers, servants, writers, and a few of them soldiers. Their manners are more rude and homely than we find is the case of their kindred in Hindooostan. They are often fair scholars and efficient public servants.

Variety of professions embraced by the Brahmins.

The most important of the industrial but non-agricultural classes, are the Koshtees and Dhers. These are the weavers of the country, the manufacturers of the different fabrics of cloth which the district has for many years past so largely produced.

Non-agricultural classes.

The Gonds now form a very unimportant section of the people here, and any detailed examination into their religion and habits would be out of place in this report. They still preserve in some degree the rude forms of their old religion, the chief object of their worship being 'Bheemsen' who is represented by a piece of iron fixed in a stone or in a tree. But many of them have betaken themselves to the worship of "Mahadeo," and most of them have adopted more or less of the Hindoo religious observances.

Gonds.

Among the Mahomedans there is nothing specially peculiar to this part of the country. They engage in every sort of occupation, farming, trading, service, and the like.

Miscellaneous.

Most of the Brahmins and the trading and the artizan classes take two meals a day, one at about 8 o'clock in the morning and the other in the evening. Field labourers take three, one in the early morning, one at mid-day, and the third at sunset. All classes, except Brahmins, Marwarees, and the few others, eat animal food when they can afford it. All the Mahratta tribes eat fowls and eggs,—the food held in so much abhorrence by all the higher castes in Hindooostan.

Diet.

With the same exceptions, viz. the Brahmins, Marwarees, and a few others, all the people use spirituous liquor distilled from the fruit of the Mohwa tree. The Mahrattas and Koonbees indeed profess not to drink, but in private almost all do consume spirits. Generally, however, the people drink in moderation, and the use of spirits appears to have no bad effect on them. But two castes,—the Dhers and the Gonds,—are notable exceptions to this rule of moderation. Many of these are habitual drunkards.

Use of spirituous liquors.

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General character.

The mass of the people are orderly and well disposed. They are quiet, peaceable, and without much physical courage; they are rather simple than crafty; their manners, if we except the Brahmins, are rude and unpolished. They are neither treacherous, vindictive, nor cruel. They are kind to their relations and to their women, who are allowed a large amount of liberty. Jealousy is rare, not perhaps because of any great amount of chastity amongst their women, but more because the general standard of conjugal fidelity is low. They have little of that cringing servility to superiors seen in many parts of India. Amongst each other they are usually truthful and straightforward, but when they disagree and have to bring forward their disputes in the Courts, they are quite regardless of truth.

The Brahmins, Marwaries, Buneahs and other classes, who are either wholly or partly traders or bankers, are intelligent and generally trustworthy. They are quick to enter into undertakings of enterprise, and to adopt any modern improvement likely in the end to be serviceable to themselves. The agricultural classes are for the most part honest, stolid, apathetic, and naturally averse to innovation of any kind.

Crime. Heinous crimes are rare, as will be seen from the following table for the last three years:—

Crimes.	Number of crimes perpetrated during			Population.	Number of Cases of Crime to each 100,000 souls in 1866.
	1864.	1865.	1866.		
Murders	6	6	4		.6
Cases of culpable homicide.	2	1	7		...
Dacoity	2	3	2		.3
Robbery	15	3	6		.9
Thefts	1,392	1,278	1,009	634,121	159.1

Condition of the agricultural classes.

During the last few years the condition of the agricultural classes has been steadily improving. Apart from the various benefits resulting from the 30 years' settlement, the last four years has brought with them the greatly enhanced demand for cotton for the English market and the flow of a steady exportation of grain and cereals to Berar and the west. And these conditions have been accompanied by increased means of transit and exportation by road and rail. Large tracts of country hitherto growing edible grain have been brought under cotton cultivation; and of the grain grown, the ryot, or farmer, after laying by sufficient for his own or for local supply, proceeds to sell the remainder for exportation

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towards the west. The country thus drained of its edible grain has had in a large measure to look for its supplies to districts on the east and north, from which a steady tide of importation has set in. The result has been, that though the price of food and the general expenses of living have nearly trebled, the agriculturists having found markets so profitable for the disposal of their produce, are now in a condition of hitherto unexampled prosperity. They have for the most part been able to dispense with the money lenders altogether, and have indeed, many of them, saved a considerable amount in cash, which it is to be feared they still prefer to hoard, instead of expending it on improved stock or instruments of tillage or in the gratification of secondary wants. Improved farming stock and indulgence in the gratification of hitherto unknown luxuries will no doubt follow. It is after all only a question of time. But at present the possession of a surplus of cash suggests to the ryot but little beyond the treasuring of rupees, or the purchase of ornaments for his wife and family.

As regards the non-agricultural portion of the people, they too are on the whole better off than they used to be, though their share in the increased prosperity is but small when compared to that of the agriculturists. The increase in the wages of labour, if it has not overtaken, has at least kept pace with the rise in the prices of food; and the demand for labour especially for the lower classes of skilled labour, has largely increased. Most of the artizans and labourers are well fed, well lodged, and sufficiently clad. Of real indigence there is little or none.

Condition of
the non-agri-
cultural
classes.

The total number of towns and qusbabs containing above 2,000 inhabitants is 35.

SECTION VII.
General notice
of towns and
villages.

The aggregate number of persons living therein is 315,851.

The total number of villages and hamlets with people below 2,000 is 2,193.

The size, population and importance of the larger towns when compared to the total district population and area, are rather remarkable.

The circumstance is perhaps in some measure to be accounted for by the system under the Mahratta Government, which made the "Kumaishdar," or head administrative official of each pergunnah reside at the head-quarters of the pergunnah. The pergunnahs were small and many. The Kumaishdar brought in his train a numerous retinue, for whose food, lodging and clothing, arrangements had to be made on the spot, and thus, the nucleus of some thing like a town, was commenced at once by the drawing together a body of artizans, grain sellers and others, who were required to provide for the wants of the officials and their followers. The cloth trade again, which is so largely followed and so widely dispersed over the district, must have done much to increase the towns. There may be other special causes, on which, it would here be out of place to speculate. At all events

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to whatever cause ascribable, the preponderance in number of the rural over the urban population is here much smaller than in most other districts in India.

The principal towns are the following. These will be noticed individually in a subsequent page.

Tehseels.

1. Nagpore.	5. Kulmeishwur.
2. Kamptee.	6. Dhapewarah.
3. Goomgaon.	7. Takulghaut.
4. Bazargaon.	8. Boree.

Oomrair Tehseelee.

9. Oomrair.	12. Koohée.
10. Bhewapore.	13. Wailtour.
11. Mandhul.	14. Bailah.

Ramtek Tehseelee.

15. Ramtek.	19. Kodamaindhee.
16. Parseonee.	20. Mohoda.
17. Patunsaongee.	21. Nugurdhun.
18. Khappa.	22. Wakoree.

Katole Tehseelee.

23. Katole.	28. Belonah.
24. Sawurgaon.	29. Saonair.
25. Kondhalee.	30. Kailode.
26. Nurkhair.	31. Julalkhaira.
27. Mowar.	32. Mhopa.

But none of them, excepting Nagpore and Kamptee, were until very lately, any thing more than an agglomeration of houses, built for the most part of mud walls; sometimes, it is true, tiled, but perhaps often thatched; they had no regularly defined streets and no drained roads. The houses were ugly and built, not in rows, but anyhow, the corners and fronts pointing in any direction, according to the fancy of the builder. The roads (such as they were) were narrow lanes, —in the dry season passages, and in the rains water channels. There was no attempt at conservancy; and the habits of the people being in some respects the reverse of cleanly, the state of the interior of the *larger* of those towns will not require description. They were excessively filthy. Heaps of cattle refuse, manure, and rubbish, lay piled about and exposed in the most public places, while great chasms, from which the mud had been originally excavated to form the walls of the houses, diffused pestilential malaria from the drainage and filth collected in them.

Even now after the expenditure of no small amount of pains on the part of the Government officials, the *smaller* towns and villages are much behind many other parts of India. Still, a beginning has been made in the right direction to persuade the people of the advantages

of the more obvious sanitary precautions. Many of the landholders have adopted a regular system of white-washing all the houses in their villages, and of insisting on proper conservancy.

But as regards the *larger* towns noted in a preceding paragraph of this Section, the advances made within the last few years have been really great. Municipalities acting under the district officials have been appointed; systems of conservancy have been matured and carried out. Funds have been raised, and municipal works have been pushed forward with a rapidity and effect, sufficient in some cases to transform the appearance of the places; wide thoroughfares, metalled and drained, have been driven through the more populous quarters; commodious school buildings, dispensaries, police stations, and serais have been erected; "Gunges" or central market places have been formed, and the people induced to build their dwelling places in a style suitable to the new streets.

And it is reasonable to hope that the stimulus thus given to municipal improvement will not die out; but on the contrary, that what has lately been effected will serve only as a basis for future advancement. For the effect of these measures is cumulative,—one improvement suggests another. Each follows the other step by step. Hardly is one work done, before some direct tendency is discovered in it leading to some other work. Lastly, it must be added that the people themselves have been brought cordially to approve of these improvements and to appreciate their value. Many of the Committees take a real pride and pleasure in their work, and the appointment of member of a Municipal Committee is always thought a honor.

The soils are thus classified for agricultural purposes :—

- 1st.—"Kalee," 1st sort (pure black soil).
- 2nd.—"Kalee," 2nd sort (black soil more or less impure.)
- 3rd.—"Moorund" (brown clay mixed with "Kunkur" nodules).
- 4th.—"Khurdee" (whitish clay soil mixed with "Kunkur" nodules.)
- 5th.—"Burdee," stony.
- 6th.—"Retharee," sandy.

**Section VII.
Productions.**

The agricultural produce may be divided into three classes: the "Khurreef," or rain crops; the "Rubbee," or spring crops; and the "Baghait," or garden crops. For "Baghait" the best 'Kalee' soil is almost invariably selected.

The Khurreef and Rubbee crops usually grown on the different soils are as follows :—

Crops..

**Classification
of Khurreef
and Rubbee
crops accord-
ing to soils.**

<i>Soils.</i>	<i>Khurreef.</i>	<i>Rubbee.</i>
Kalee (both sorts.)	Cotton, jowaree, toor.	Wheat, linseed, safflower., peas.
Moorund,	Jowaree, moong, rice.	Gram, mussoor, wheat, peas
Kurdee.	Jowaree, toor, vetches.	Wheat, castor, gram, peas.
Burdee.	Cotton, jowaree, toor.	Castor.
Betharee.	Castor.	Castor.

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Khurreef cultivation.

The ploughing for the Khurreef (Autumn) harvest commences in April. The paring plough ('bhukhur') is first used to level any irregularities of the surface; the ground is then ploughed three or four times or even more. The seed is not sown till after the first fall of rain, which ordinarily takes place early in June. The "teefun," or treble drill-rake, is the instrument ordinarily used for sowing. Three furrows are thus sown at once. Shortly after the crop appears above the surface the 'davun,' or hoe plough, is passed between the furrows to destroy the grass and if necessary to thin the crop while the earth is turned over so as to cover the roots. After a lapse of a few weeks, the hoe plough is once more used and sometimes even a third time.

Khurreef crops.

The Khurreef cultivation consists of cotton, jowaree, toor, (a sort of vetch) rice, moong, hemp, til (sesame).

Cotton.

Cotton has now become the most important, and generally, the most remunerative of all the crops. During the last four years its cultivation has been so stimulated by the demand in the English market that it is now raised throughout large tracts of country hitherto devoted to the cultivation of edible grain. The most valuable crops are grown in the north-west corner of the Katole Tehseelee, but the whole of the Katole and Nagpore Tehseelees may now be said to be cotton growing districts. The total out-turn of this crop in the year 1864-65 was calculated at 78,527 mds. or 6,282,160 lbs.; in 1865-66 it was probably little less.

The indigenous staple is in itself of a fair quality; but much improvement is to be looked for by introduction of foreign seed, and from the sowing in one part of the country seed selected from another part. Some extensive experiments in this interchange of indigenous seed are now being tried; and seed gardens designed to afford picked seed for distribution have been established. Improvements in the method of cultivation too have followed the increased demand for the staple, and there seems no reason to doubt that the cotton of this district may in a short time equal any producible in the country. The weeding and picking are better and more carefully done than they used to be, and many cultivators have already begun to adopt that plan of light but careful manuring which seems in this soil to produce the heaviest crops.

Rice.

Rice is not extensively cultivated, but wherever irrigation is available from artificial tanks a few rice-fields rarely fail to be seen.

Jowaree.

Jowaree (millet) is grown in great abundance, chiefly in the Nagpore and Katole Tehseelees. The crops are very fine.

Toor.

A good deal of toor is grown; it is often raised in the same field as cotton; generally five ridges of cotton to one of toor.

Rubbee cultivation.

For the Rubbee (spring) harvest, the fields are first worked with the paring plough in June and July. They are then ploughed throughout the rains (the oftener the better) according to the means and leisure of the husbandmen. The sowing takes place in November and December,

and the crop is ready for harvest at the end of February or beginning of March.

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The main crops of this harvest are wheat, and 'chenna' (gram): koosoom (safflower), peas, "ulsee" (linseed), 'muhsoor' (a sort of vetch) and 'erindee' (castor plant) are also cultivated.

Rubbee crops.

Wheat is the grand rubbee crop. The great wheat field is in the Oomreir and Ramtek Tehseelies, in a tract lying to the south of Ramtek, and enclosed on the east by the Bhundara boundary, on the south by the hills below Oomreir, and on the west by a line drawn north to south through Nuggurdhun, Hurbolee, Muggurdhokra, and Sirsee. Here this cultivation is uninterrupted over many miles of country. In February the whole country appears covered with one vast expanse of yellow corn. The crop is usually cut at the end of February. The corn is trodden out by bullocks and winnowed in the wind.

Wheat.

The other Rubbee crops do not need any particular mention. Chenna' (gram) is grown chiefly in the Oomreir and Ramtek Tehseels; the remaining crops, perhaps most in the Tehseels of Nagpore and Katole. The "ulsee" (linseed) of the district is said to be very good. The "erindee" (castor plant) of the Katole Tehslee is particularly fine.

Other Rubbee crops.

The garden cultivation is devoted to sugarcane, plantain, tobacco, poppy, betel leaf, yams, ginger, turmeric, garlic, onions, carrots, turnips, and other vegetables.

Baghail, or
garden crops.

Sugarcane is cultivated, but not nearly so much as it might be. It is chiefly raised in the valley of the Soor in the Ramtek Tehseel and in the rich garden villages of Katole. The crops raised are fair but the "goor" (molasses) manufactured from the cane is said to be poor. One reason for the comparative neglect of sugar cane cultivation may be this, that here the Mohwa fruit is used instead of Goor for the distillation of spirituous liquor; another reason is, that the people have not yet learnt the art of manufacturing sugar from goor.

Sugarcane.

The ground for cultivation is first prepared by the "bhukhur" and then by the plough. It is next covered with a thick layer of manure, channels and cross channels for irrigation are then made and the whole field is well watered. The plants are raised from cuttings from the old canes. They throw out their sprouts (one from each knot of the cutting) commonly in the course of thirty-five or forty days. The young sprouts are at first carefully supported with earth which is not removed until they are grown to some distance from the ground. As the plant grows up the branches are tied up. From ten and a half to eleven and a half months elapse from the planting the cuttings to the complete ripening of the canes. Continued irrigation is required until the monsoon sets in: and as this crop is considered the highest branch of garden cultivation, so its successful management demands skill, patience, and capital all combined.

NAGPORE.**Plantain.****Pan' or betel creeper.**

The plantain is largely cultivated in all the garden villages; it has a triennial duration, and is generated from sprouts of the old plants.

The betel-leaf cultivation is carried on with much success in a few gardens. Those at Ramtek are celebrated throughout this part of India for the excellence of their produce. The plant requires a particular kind of soil, and has to be partly sheltered from the outer air. This is effected by enclosing the plantation round the sides, and by roofing it over at the top, with a frame-work made of grass and bamboos. Much manure is employed. Ghee, or clarified butter, is used largely for this purpose. The plant has a triennial duration and requires ground that has lain fallow for some time. It is propagated from cuttings, and is planted in July. The leaves are not fit for use until twelve months after the shoots are put in, and thereafter they are picked every fortnight.

Poppy.

The poppy is cultivated in a few places for opium. The cultivation might easily be increased. The juice is extracted by scoring the poppy heads from top to bottom with a sharp knife. The juice thus expressed is subjected to the usual processes; but there are no skilful manipulators in this part of the country, and the opium is not considered very good.

None of the other garden crops need special description.

The fruit trees cultivated in gardens and orchards may be briefly noticed. The oranges, lemons, sweetlimes, mangoes, and guavas are plentiful and remarkably fine. The Nagpore oranges in particular are justly celebrated for their size and flavour. Their cultivation is increasing. They are exported in large quantities to Bombay.

Manure.

Manure is applied to all kinds of garden cultivation. It is usually produced from the cultivator's own stock. Sometimes flocks of sheep and goats are turned out into the fields. The people quite appreciate the use of manure for all crops. The supply however is very limited. Large quantities of cowdung are used in fires for cooking. Vegetable manuring is not much practised; but stubble after being burnt is often used as manure.

Irrigation.

Irrigation is almost entirely confined to garden cultivation and rice. Wells are ordinarily the means used in the case of the former and artificial tanks for the latter.

Enclosures.**Field boundaries.****Village boundaries.****Livestock.****Horses.****Attempt to improve the breed of ponies.**

Enclosures are only used for garden cultivation and for fields adjoining jungles, where they are required to protect the crops from wild animals. The rest of the cultivation is all open, a narrow strip of unploughed land serving to demarcate field from field. The village boundaries are marked by stone pillars.

Horse-breeding has hitherto been quite neglected. Indeed, excepting at Nagpore and Kamptee, there are no horses. Ponies of an inferior breed are to be met with, but not very many even of these. Recently attempt has been made (on a very small scale) to improve the breed of these ponies by crossing them with Arab blood.

Horned cattle are bred in large numbers. The breed is smaller than that of Upper India, and very inferior in size and appearance to the Mysore and Nellore breed. On the other hand, they are compact, wiry, and of great bottom and endurance.

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Horned cattle.

The trotting bullocks used with the light travelling cart, or ringee, are well known; and one or two pairs of these little animals are possessed by every well-to-do Malgozar. They will frequently travel long distances of thirty miles or more, at the rate of six miles an hour.

Trotting
bullocks.

The district however does not appear to breed cattle in sufficient numbers for its own consumption. Numbers are imported every year from Raepore and also from Upper India, especially from Cawnpore. The price of a good pair of plough bullocks ranges from 70 rupees to 150 rupees. For a pair of fast trotting bullocks from 200 to 250 rupees is frequently given.

Number of
cattle bred.

Importations.

Prices.

Improvement
of the indige-
nous breed.

For field operations it seems certain that it would be an improvement to have animals of more power than those of the indigenous breed. The district authorities have lately imported some very fine bulls of the Nellore breed to cross with the indigenous cows, but sufficient time has not yet elapsed to judge of the results.

Buffaloes.

There are plenty of buffaloes; the breed is ordinarily good.

Sheep and
goats.

Sheep and goats are to be met with in abundance all over the district. The best flocks of sheep are reared in the Katole and Nagpore Tehseelies: but the wool is coarse and inferior; and the mutton coarse, though sweet. Some Patna and other foreign rams have recently been imported, and have been very successfully crossed with indigenous ewes.

Improvement
of breed of
sheep.

Poultry.

Forest
produce.Valuable
timber.

Prospects.

The Mehwa.

Honey.

Bees-wax.

To prevent the total destruction of the best timber, it was necessary altogether to prohibit for the time the cutting of these valuable trees and to adopt a system of regular conservation.

This system has now been in force since 1862. The saplings are now making progress, but it will not be for some years to come that any large timber will be fit to cut.

Of forest fruit trees the most important is that of the Mohwa, from the flowers of which is distilled "daroo,"—the spirituous liquor most used in this part of the country.

A little honey and bees-wax are annually gathered from the wild honey combs which the insect generally constructs on the loftiest forest trees.

NAGPORE.**Grass.****C. Minerals.****Building stones.**
Basalt.**Asalt used also for metallin roads.****Sandstone:****Granite:****Laterite.****Limestones.****Lime and kunkur.****Coal.****Occasional appearance of chalcedony, flint, heliatrope and jasper.****Clays.****Metals.****Gold.****Sulphuret of lead.****Manganese.****Manufacture.**
Cloth.

Excellent grass grows in most of the forests. This grass is cut and stored as fodder for cattle, and is also used for thatching houses.

The district is rich in the different sorts of building stone. In speaking of geology, the trap, sandstone, laterite and granitic formations have all been described. The basalt is not always found near the surface, of a sufficiently large grain for building purposes. Whenever it is so found it forms an excellent building material. The Railway Company have used it largely in their bridges, and lately it has come into use for building in the town and station of Nagpore. Broken up into small fragments it forms the very best metalling procurable for roads.

A very fine sandstone found near Kamptee is much used for building. The sandstone at Sillewarra is much prized for ornamental carving, being fine-grained, soft, of good color, and free from impurities. Granite rock is plentiful, but is not much used for building. It is of short grain and of variable composition. Laterite is used and might be more utilized than it is. When dug from the quarry this composition is quite soft; but when exposed to the air, it rapidly hardens and forms a durable building material.

The limestones are also used for building. The lime used for making mortar is procured from the quarries of kunkur, which are to be found almost everywhere in the alluvial and "regur" soils.

Coal has not yet been found, but probably it does exist more or less in the sandstone formations which lie between the coal producing sandstone tracts of Chindwara and Chanda.

Associated with the trap rocks or enclosed in them are occasionally found chalcedony, flint, heliatrope, and jasper. Some clays well adapted for pottery are to be met with here and there.

Of metals there is a scarcity. Gold is said to have been noticed in a quartz matrix near Nuggurdhun, but this seems doubtful. Indubitably it exists in very small particles in the sand of some of the rivers, notably in that of the Soor. The particles are, however, so minute, and the labour of washing the sand so great, that very few persons follow the occupation of gold-washers.

Sulphuret of lead (galena) has been noticed in one or two places.

Iron ore of good quality is found near Munser, and must exist in many other places. It is too hard to be worked by natives, who prefer extracting the metal from the softer oxides contained in laterite rock.

Manganese exists with the iron, especially connected with the Late-rite beds in the valley of the Soor river, and at Mohoda on the Kunhan.

The great article of manufacture is cloth. Cotton and silk fabrics of all sorts and descriptions are produced in abundance for dhoties.

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(cloths worn round the loins), valued at 500 rupees a pair to the common cloths costing a rupee and a half worn by common coolies. "Pugrees" (turbans) "sarees" (garment pieces worn by women), "dhotees" and "doputtas" (cloth worn by men), are the articles most manufactured.

The most noticeable of all, are the Nagpore and Oomrair dhotees. These are made of the very finest cotton cloth (undyed), fringed with a border of silk. The pattern and color of the silk border is according to the taste of the wearer. Some of the designs are very tasteful; they are formed by interweaving silk of different colors with gold thread. The ground work of the whole being of a brilliant crimson.

The Pugrees are generally made of finely woven cotton cloth either colored or undyed, with a broad fringe of gold.

Sarees and doputtas are sometimes made of plain white cotton cloth with handsome silk borders, sometimes entirely of silk, sometimes of dyed cotton cloth with silk border.

The very best of these finer cloths are made in Nagpore and Oomrair but Khappa, Mohoda, Bhewapore and many other towns also manufacture superior fabrics. The manufacture is in the hands of the Koshtees, an industrious and skilful class of workmen. The looms are somewhat elaborate in their gear, and difficult to work. The weaver has to serve a long apprenticeship before he becomes a skilled workman. High commendation and several prizes were awarded to specimens of these fabrics at the recent Exhibitions at Agra, Lucknow, Nagpore and Jubbulpore.

The coarser fabrics consist of stout cotton cloth, either white or dyed, in various colors. The manufacture is carried on all over the district. Indeed there is hardly a considerable village that has not a number of persons engaged in this manufacture. The workmen are chiefly Dhers.

The rest of the manufactures are unimportant, and may be dismissed in a few words. They consist of blankets, white and black, made from indigenous wool; 'tatputtee' or sacking; coarse basket work; common pottery; and some creditable brass work, consisting of "lotahs" "kutrahns" and cooking utensils. These last however are made only in a very few towns.

There are a few workers in steel. One house is noted for the manufacture of steel weapons, such as daggers, hunting spears. Stone and wood carving had in former days reached a very creditable stage of progress, as old carvings abundantly testify. The art has to a certain extent fallen into disuse. There are still however, especially at Nagpore itself, many excellent workmen; and some efforts have lately been made to revive the art. The workmen are found quite capable of executing European designs, and some of the indigenous patterns show excellent taste and workmanship.

Finer fabrics.
"Dhotees."

"Pugrees."

"Sarees" and
"Doputtas."Coarser
fabrics.Other
manufactures
unimportant.

Steel work.

Stone and
wood carving.

NAGPORE.**Section IX.
Trade and
Commerce.**

The productions belonging to the different branches of agricultural and manufacturing industry, have already been described. Figures showing the annual exports and imports of the more important towns, will be given in the last section of this article. But the statistics for the *general* trade of the Central Provinces are collected by a system which does not admit of the exhibition of figures for this district *separately*. Accordingly it is proposed in this section to attempt only a general sketch of the past and present state of trade and commerce.

**Trade under
the Mahrattas.**

The trade of the district was always considerable. In the time of the Mahrattas, grain, oil-seeds, and country cloth formed the chief articles of export. In exchange for these commodities the district received European piece and miscellaneous goods; salt from Bombay and Berar; silks, sugar, and spices from Bundelkund, Mirzapore and the North; and rice from Raepore, Bhundara, and the East.

**How retarded
by certain
impediments.**

Except in times of depression produced by the foreign struggles or internal commotions of the State, the general tendency of trade under the Mahrattas was to increase; but there were three prominent causes at work to prevent the *rapid* development of commerce. The first was the difficult nature of the country and the wretched means of communication, impeding equally import and export. The second was the want of security of traders from the greed of the rulers of the State or their agents. Forced loans were frequently taken from wealthy merchants and bankers without any pretext whatever except that the State wanted money, with the full understanding on both sides that the amount was to be wholly or partially left unpaid. It would seem indeed that the later Nagpore rulers indulged in this species of plunder to a greater degree than almost any other Native government. The result of this system was to make the merchant hoard his surplus wealth, and secrete it in the form of bullion and jewels, instead of embarking it in profitable but visible mercantile investments. The third cause is to be found in the existence of certain regulations, trammelling the free export of grain, and in the establishment of vicious systems of private monopolies and transit duties.

**Removal of
the two last
impediments.**

The two last causes have been removed for many years; indeed nothing of them but a few of the transit duties remained after the deposition of Appa Sahib in 1818. The last of these duties were not removed until after the annexation of the Nagpore kingdom, in 1853.

**Present state
of trade.****Great increase
in the last
four years.**

The last four years have been marked by a sudden and hitherto unprecedented commercial activity, and accumulation of wealth. Many causes diversified in their character but similar to those operating in other parts of India, have contributed to produce this effect. But two of them stand prominently forward. The first is to be found in the increased demand for cotton for the English market; the second in the very recent development of communications by road and railway.

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The latter subject will be treated of in a separate section. The effect produced on the district by the increased demand for cotton requires some brief mention.

General effect produced by increased cultivation and export of cotton.

The increased demand for the English market first affected the cotton sowings in the agricultural year 1862-63. In that year the price of cotton at Bombay more than doubled. In the district of Wurdah and the Berars, always cotton growing tracts, the cultivation was at once enormously extended, taking up large tracts of country hitherto devoted to the cultivation of edible grain. A similar, though less extended movement took place in this district, where the cultivation probably doubled. In 1863-64 the prices at Bombay rose still higher, and the cultivation and export of the staple continued to extend. This district, always in the habit of drawing considerable quantities of grain from Chutteesgurh and Bhundara, and also of exporting grain towards Wurdah and the Berars, now required more from the former country and could afford less for the latter. The Chutteesgurh and Bhundara country was able to meet the demand and exported in enormous quantities to Nagpore, Wurdah and the Berars. The local prices of food rose, but, on the other hand, so great was the profit from the cotton exported to Bombay that the aggregate result, was a large augmentation of agricultural wealth. In 1864-65 the prices of cotton fell. In 1865-66 they again slightly rose. The increased cultivation and export of the staple had, however, been too firmly established to yield much to these fluctuations. On the other hand, partial failure of the grain crops in Chutteesgurh during these two years, lessened the import of cereal produce from that country, and this district, obliged to look elsewhere for its supplies, began to draw from an entirely new source, viz. Jubbulpore and the North. At the same time the extended cotton cultivation in the Nagpore and Katole Tehsilees had now withdrawn so much land from cultivation of jowarce that for the first time there was an ebb in the usual tide of traffic from East to West and then sprung up an import of this grain from Berar.

Present trade in agricultural produce.

At the present time, then, the agricultural produce exported consists of cotton, oil-seeds, and some edible grain; while the imports are rice, wheat, and other edible grain, partly from Chutteesgurh and partly from Jubbulpore and the North, and some millet or jowarce from the Berars.

Trade in non-agricultural produce.

In articles not being agricultural produce, the chief imports are European piece and miscellaneous goods from Bombay; salt from the Concan; sugar and spices from Mirzapore and the North; and hardware from Bhundara and from the Nerbudda districts. The only export of consequence is the country cloth.

Manufacture of cloth.

It seems probable that the manufacture of the commoner sorts of country cloth is on the decline. The increased local prices of raw cotton arising from the late exports, and the sharp competition of machine made stuffs from England, have combined to depress the local manufacture. Last year, indeed, the exports were apparently in excess

Prospects of the manufacture considered.

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of those of the year preceding, the fall in the prices of cotton having again tended to stimulate local manufacture; while at the same time there was a diminution in the import of European piece goods. There appears however to be little doubt that this was a mere fluctuation, arising chiefly from the depressed condition of the Bombay market. Some of the ordinary sorts of cloth peculiar to Nagpore and Oomrair, have now been imitated in England and are actually sold here at much lower prices than their local prototypes. There seems too to be a growing preference for the English goods, and already many of the weavers, weary of competing any longer, have betaken themselves to more profitable employment.

On the whole then, although the manufacture and export of home-made cloth is still briskly maintained, it seems probable that in the natural course of things, the trade must decline, and perhaps eventually disappear before machine made stuffs.

Trade in other articles.

The trade in salt and in European miscellaneous goods appears to be greatly on the increase; the annual import, of sugar, spices, and hardware, is probably stationary or nearly so.

Grain entrepôts.

By far the largest entrepôt for wheat, rice and other edible grain is Kamptee, where there are many wholesale dealers; other considerable entrepôts are Nagpore, Oomrair, Saonair, Khappa, and Katole. With one or two important exceptions, the trade is in the hands of the Marwarees, who have their agents for the purposes of purchase and import stationed in Bhundara and Chutteesgurh, and latterly at Jubbulpore. They also buy in the open market from the 'Countias,' (village headmen) who bring in the corn at their own venture from the countries where it is grown. They export again, either by consignment to their own agents stationed in Wurdah and in the Berars, or else sell at the entrepôts to agents sent by the wholesale dealers in those districts.

No large entrepôts for cotton in the district.

The district has no entrepôts for cotton, if we except Kamptee, which does a small trade in this staple. The cotton of the Nagpore Tehseel mostly finds its way to the great entrepôt of Hingunghat, in the Wurdah district; that of the Katole Tehseel to Oomraotee, in Berar; from these places it is sent to the different stations on the railway for transport to Bombay.

Classes dealing in piece and miscellaneous goods.

The trade in European cloth and mixed goods, is chiefly in the hands of the Bhoras who have large shops at Nagpore. The retail dealers buy from these Bhoras, and disperse the stuffs throughout the town and country bazaars; Brahmins and Marwarees are also engaged in this trade, as also in the export trade of country cloth.

Summary of trade.

The entire interchange of commodities, may be thus summarized. The district exports raw cotton, grains, and other agricultural produce and cloth; and receives in return salt, sugar, English piece and miscellaneous goods, cattle, hardware and cutlery. The balance of trade is

without doubt greatly in favour of the district; and is adjusted by imports of bullion, which it is to be feared is still extensively (though less so now than formerly), hoarded, in cash, or ornaments, or in other unproductive representations of wealth.

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Almost all the "Sahocree," or banking transactions, are carried on by the Marwares. There are however a few banking houses conducted by Brahmins.

Banking houses.

The following are the principal among the many forms which their speculations assume:—

- (1). Lending money at interest.
- (2). Profits on disposal of bullion.
- (3). "Hoondiana," or commission on bills of exchange.

The rate of interest is certainly less than it used to be. This is the natural result of the increased plentifullness of money. It is impossible to give any *average* rate of interest, as this varies with so many variable conditions, such as the amount to be borrowed, the nature of security, the tightness of the money market, but it may be said that money can always be obtained on good security, for 12 per cent per annum, and often for considerably less. The security demanded is usually the pledge or pawn of valuable jewels and the like, mortgages on real property, or personal security of men of known substance. Ordinarily the better class of bankers will not lend very small sums. But some few of the very wealthiest of them combine the largest with the smallest sorts of transactions. Besides their large "dookans" at Nagpore, these men have their agents established at every petty town in the district, and lend out the very smallest sums to poor people at high interest.

Lending money at interest.

Gold and silver bullion used to be imported both from Calcutta and Bombay, now almost entirely from Bombay. The gold importation has probably quadrupled during the last four years. The value of this import, it is believed reached, in the year 1866-67, the enormous sum of 40 lakhs of rupees in Nagpore alone; while the silver bullion was valued at 10 lakhs. The increased demand for the precious metals is directly traceable to the flourishing state of the export trade in cotton and grain. The successful agriculturist has as yet little idea of investing his savings in anything but ornaments, and the bankers have regulated their importations accordingly. The profit derived by the "Sahocars" in this branch of their business is not so large as might be expected, being probably not more than from 4 annas to 6 annas on every hundred rupees' worth of bullion.

Import of gold and silver bullion.

The most extensive transactions in bills of exchange, are with Calcutta; and after Calcutta with the following towns according to the order in which they are placed, Bombay, Mirzapore, Benares, Indore, Ootacamund, Jeypore, and Hyderabad. All the principal bankers have agents and correspondents at these places. It would be impossible to

Bills of exchange.

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state the annual amount of transactions; but it may be confidently affirmed that their increase of late years has been enormous. The rate of exchange varies with the variable conditions governing the state of the money market both at home and at the place on which a bill is to be drawn, but bankers generally manage to make a fair profit at all times and under all conditions of the money market. There are regular quotations of exchange well known and kept to by the "Sahocar" brotherhood in their dealings with one another, but they are not the least ashamed to make as much as they possibly can out of chance customers. In granting "hoondees" they will charge such people far beyond the current rates of exchange, and think it quite in the legitimate line of business. In Nagpore the money market is generally tight from October to March, when money is out in the purchase of cotton and grains, and easy for the remainder of the year.

It is not usual to grant bills payable at sight, though these can always be procured at a high rate of exchange. In the way of the ordinary course of business bills are drawn thus:—

Bills drawn on—

Calcutta	are payable ...	...	...	61 days after sight.
Bombay	" ...	...	...	13 "
Mirzapore	" ...	...	...	51 "
Benares	" ...	...	...	51 "
Indore	" ...	...	...	21 "
Oomraotee	" ...	...	...	13 "
Jeypore	" ...	...	...	45 "
Hyderabad	" ...	...	...	21 "

Section X.
Land revenue
system, and
land tenures.

The Settlement just completed has brought with it two grand changes in the land revenue system of the country: the first, the conferment of proprietary right in the soil on the different holders of estates; and the second, the determination of a fixed annual Government demand (rental) on each estate for thirty years. These great changes have been so recent that the bare exposition of the existing state of affairs without any reference to what has gone before, might lead to imperfect ideas as to the real condition and prospects of property in land; and without some notice of the present and past land revenue system, and land tenures, the present section would be incomplete.

But on the other hand, the regular Settlement report will shortly be submitted by the Settlement Officer; and in that report the subject will be treated exhaustively; so that on the whole, the best course will probably be to attempt a concise sketch of the revenue system and tenures which obtained previous to the new Settlement; and in the succeeding remarks connected with the present system and tenures to confine strictly to statements of *fact* and *result*, without entering at all into any history of the *operations* of the Settlement.

The system of land revenue under the earlier Mahrattas was what was commonly called "*Patelgee*," but was really *Ryotwar*. The assessments were annual. The Government was the sole proprietor of land, except

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in cases where the right of proprietorship was formally abandoned, as for instance in estates or portions of estates granted under certain special tenures to be noticed further on.

The whole country was parcelled out into pergunnahs, each containing a number of villages. The revenue officer at the head of each pergunnah was the Kumaishdar. The Patel was originally, in most cases, merely one of the cultivators, who was appointed for collecting the Government rent, and for apportioning the demand for the entire village amongst the different ryots. His office was held only during the pleasure of Government, and was in its nature neither hereditary nor saleable. If the Patel were succeeded in the office by his heirs, it was from sufferance, not by virtue of any recognised hereditary right. His services were remunerated by a percentage on the collections.

Patel.

No cultivator was considered entitled to cultivate in perpetuity, and the leases made with the ryots were subject to annual termination and revision. Every field liable to assessment was subject to its full proportion of the entire juma assessed on the village. Both the former and the latter were open to annual fluctuations. Fixed assessments or fixed rates were not known. "Neither in theory nor in practice" (says Sir Richard Jenkins) "did Government admit the right of any class of cultivators to participate in the full amount of the rents of the lands; and the object of its revenue system appears to have been to realize from any portion of the lands under cultivation, a proportionate share of the total village assessment."

Occupiers.

The plan was, first of all, to determine the demand for the year, on the *pergunnah*. This was done at head-quarters after reference to assessments of previous years, and to the existing condition and circumstances of agriculture and population. As soon as the Kumaishdar was told what his pergunnah was to contribute, the patels were assembled at the Qusbah, and the whole pergunnah assessment was then apportioned upon the villages composing it; this apportionment, again, being made with reference to the circumstances and condition of the villages, the resources and capabilities of the patels and ryots, the state of cultivation.

Annual assessment of revenue.

To quote Sir Richard Jenkins again, "Every portion of cultivated land, but no other is liable to assessment. The Government demand is on the village lands in general, and not on the particular portions of it, consequently the apportionment of the assessment falls where the responsibility does, *viz.* on the patel and village community; and there are no fixed rates to prevent the apportionment going hand in hand with changes in the lands, or in the circumstances of the cultivators; and as the proportionate share of the whole assessment demanded from each village was not originally fixed, nor subsequently modified according to any determinate rules, but merely to the relative capability of the village, as indicated by former experience; so the pergunnah assessment was, in like manner grounded on previous settlements, but affected, no doubt, in a great degree, by the character and circumstances of the existing Government."

Sir R. Jenkins' views on the revenue system.

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Privileged tenures.

The yearly revenue was collected in five different instalments.

The above was the general system adopted for the assessment and apportionment of revenue in the great majority of estates, and the great bulk of the land. I now turn to the *exceptional* tenures under which plots or whole estates were frequently given to, or their revenue wholly or partially alienated in favour of Brahmins, temples (as endowments) military chiefs, as allowances or payments for services rendered, or to be rendered, members of the ruling family as appanage, and so on. These tenures were three, *Maafee*, *Mokasa*, and *Mukta*.

The Maafee tenure may be briefly dismissed. The term was applied in this part of the country not to whole villages, but to small plots or patches consisting of one or more fields in a village, granted revenue-free to mendicant Brahmins, to small temples, shrines, &c., for support or endowment.

Mokassa.

The revenue-free tenure of *entire* estates was the *Mokasa*; but in this tenure too, as well as in the *Mukta*, sometimes not the whole village was given, but only a specified amount of the revenue was to be enjoyed by the holder, the remainder of the profits being credited to Government. In other words, under both *Mokasa* and *Mukta* tenures the grant *sometimes* consisted of an *alienation* of part of the Government revenue in favour of the holder, for perpetuity or life, as the case might be, while *more generally* the grant was of the whole estate with all profits.

Mukta.

Under the *Mukta* tenure, estates were held at a *fixed* and favourable rental. Generally the fixed rental was much below what would have been the ordinary demand on the village; often it was merely nominal. In some few cases again, it was quite as heavy as would have been the ordinary Government demand.

**Weak point
of the Mah-
ratta system.**

Such were the more prominent features of the Mahratta revenue system which, with all its uncertainties and defects, seems for a long time to have worked well. The dangerous point, of course, lay in the *pergunnah assessments* being, (once more to quote Sir Richard Jenkins,) "*no doubt in a great degree affected by the character and circumstances of the existing Government.*" As long as the course of the Government in fixing the *pergunnah* assessments was shaped on the circumstances deduced from fairly just assessments of previous years, and the ascertained existing condition of cultivation and people, the system would work fairly well. But, obviously, the more unscrupulous the "character" of the Government, and the more needy its "circumstances," the more the *pergunnah* assessment would depend on the *exigencies of the State*, and the less on the existing condition of agriculture in the *pergunnah*, and the circumstances of the villages composing it. And as the *pergunnah* assessments, whatever they amounted to, had to be made good somehow or other by the patels, so the patels, in the event of an inordinate *pergunnah* assessment, would in turn be forced to make inordinate demands upon the ryots.

**Undue
exaction.**

And in this way the system did at length fail in practice. When the affairs of the State became embarrassed at the close of the last century, the downward course began. Matters went on from bad to worse.

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As the State became more and more needy and embarrassed, the evils of ruinous exactions were further and further disregarded, and their effects became more and more manifest. Large 'nuzzars' and advances of rent were exacted from the Kumaishdars, who had to supply the money by squeezing the patels; and these in their turn had to meet the demand by extorting it in some shape or other from the ryots; and miscellaneous cesses and imposts indirectly connected with the land, but exclusive of actual rent, became more and more severe and numerous.

All this went on throughout the first 16 years of the present century and was continued during the short regency and reign of Appa Sahib. Much land in the meanwhile had fallen out of cultivation, and very many of the patels and ryots became heavily involved in debt,—an embarrassment, out of which they had not extricated themselves when the management of the country was placed, in 1818, under Sir Richard Jenkins, acting in behalf of the minor, Rajah Rughojee III.

Its result.

Sir R. Jenkins' reforms.

From the year 1818 A. D., we have regular records of the Settlement. There can be no doubt that Sir Richard Jenkins and his Officers, without introducing suddenly any radical innovations, yet managed considerably to improve on the old system, and above all to do away with many of what may perhaps be termed the non-inherent evils that had lately sprung up. The pergunnah assessments were once more founded on the ascertained circumstances and conditions of the villages composing it. The patels were informed that the Government arrangements with them would be scrupulously observed, and were enjoined in like manner to observe their engagements with the ryots. Many of the late extra imposts were abolished, and many old accumulated balances remitted. In short, a vigorous attempt was made once more to start fair on the best principles of the old system, and the condition of the agriculturists began to revive.

Patel's position becomes strong.

But now a great change commenced gradually to operate on the old system. Villages began to be farmed out to patels for a succession of years. The patel began to dig tanks and wells, to plant trees, to manure, and otherwise to expend money and labour on the lands entrusted to him. He would thus be most unwilling to see his land given to another at the expiration of his lease. He would do every thing he could to procure a renewal of the lease. He began to believe that he had something of a vested interest in the village; and though the theory as to his rights—or rather absence of rights—remained just as before, there can be no doubt that with the extension of the leases over several years instead of over one only, there grew up between patel and village a connection of a much stronger character than subsisted before. A patel who had farmed a village successfully for many years did in practice succeed in establishing a preferential right over strangers, unless he should be much outbid by the latter, at the settlement of the new lease.

Further to explain this process, we cannot do better than quote two passages from Mr Ross' unfinished Settlement Report.

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**Southern
Lines to Hyde-
rabad, Chan-
da.**

**North-west-
ern Lines, Aj-
mere, Rajpoo-
tana.**

**Local country
tracts:**

**Recapitu-
lation.**

**New lines of
communication
opened
since 1862.**

Railway.

Roads.

**Northern
Road.**

There were two routes from Chanda, and the south; one entering the district below Oomrair, which it reached *via* Chinoor (in the Chanda district), and thence led to Nagpore in a straight line north-west; the other entering just above Jam (in the Wurdah district) passed through Takulghat, and entered Nagpore by the suburb of Sonegaon.

Lastly, there were the routes to Baitool and Chindwara, and from these places to Mhow, Ajmere, and Rajpootana. These routes after descending the Sautpooras by the Tulao and Mohee ghats, joined at Saofair (twenty-one miles north of Nagpore), reaching Nagpore by the villages of Adassa, and Burhampooree. The traffic on these was inconsiderable. Like the others, they were nearly impassable during the rains.

As for the purely local lines, they did not exist at all as defined tracks. Excepting through mountain-passes their courses were not even demarcated. People made their way from town to village, and from village to market-place, as best they might; the tracks being shifted from watercourse to upland, and from field to field, according to the seasons, and alterations of the crops.

But such were the great arterial lines of communication, along which with no constructed roads, and in despite of every obstacle interposed by nature, a vast traffic to and from this country did during eight months of the year, contrive to force its way to Jubbulpore and the North, to Berar, the Deccan, and Bombay; to Bhundara, Chutteesgurh, and the East; to Hyderabad and the South; to Rajpootana, and the North-west. The little Mahratta hackery, convoys of bullocks and buffaloes, and to some slight extent camels, formed the only means of transport; and with these means the entire imports and exports of the country had to be dragged through tracts of pestilential jungle, through quagmire and morass, down the precipitous banks, and across the stony beds of rivers, over narrow and dangerous hill passes. The time occupied in transit was of course enormous. The marvel is how so great a traffic could have been conducted at all. What has been done during the last few years to facilitate communication will now be shown.

That portion of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway known as the Nagpore Branch, leaving the main line from Bombay to Jubbulpore, at Bhosawul, in the Bombay district of Khandeish, traverses the Berar country from west to east, and crossing the Wurdah near the station of Poolgaon, enters the Central Provinces. From Poolgaon its course is still east. It has stations at Wurdah and Sindee, in the Wurdah district; and another at Boree, in this district. At Boree (nineteen miles from Nagpore) the line curves sharply to the north and continues in that direction to its terminus at Seetabuldee, the northern suburb of Nagpore. The Railway was opened to the terminus, on the 20th of February 1867.

The new Northern Road is now complete the whole way to Jubbulpore. The only rivers still unbridged are the Kunhan at Kamptee, and the Nerbudda at Jubbulpore. The Kunhan bridge is

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now under construction. Meantime, a temporary pile bridge is annually erected immediately after the rains, and is in use for eight months of the year. The road leaves Nagpore close to the railway terminus, and goes to Kamptee. Thence, after crossing the Kunhan it proceeds northwards by Munsur and Chorbaolee (twenty-one and twenty-seven miles respectively from Nagpore), beyond which it enters the Seonee district, and passing through Deolapar ascends the Sautpoora ghats at Korai, and so on through Seonee over the table-land of the Sautpooras, whence it descends again at a point distant about thirty miles from Jubbulpore. This road has been conducted with much engineering skill over a very difficult country. In this district, its entire course is about thirty-three miles. In this length it has three serais, exclusive of those in Nagpore itself; two excellent new ones at Kamptee and Munsur, and an old one at Chorbaolee; two dak bungalows at Kamptee and at Munsur; four Police posts at Indorah, Kamptee, Munsur, and Chorbaolee. An avenue of trees has been planted along almost the whole length. There are numerous wells and grain dealers' shops.

The Eastern Road leaves Nagpore by two branches starting from the north and from the south of the city. Thence the road proceeds still eastward to Bhundara (forty miles from Nagpore) crossing the Kunhan at Mahoda half way. The line is completed as far as Bhundara, the only stream unbridged being the Kunhan. Beyond Bhundara, a large portion of this road has been completed towards Raepore, but as a metalled road, it can at present only be said to be open for *through* traffic between Nagpore and Bhundara. Its course in this district is about twenty-nine miles, in which distance it has three Police posts, *viz.*, Pardee, Mahoda and Hurba, the last twenty-seven and half miles from Nagpore. There is a dak bungalow at Mohoda, where there is also a serai. An avenue of trees, lately planted, lines it almost throughout its course to Bhundara.

Eastern Road.

* The Southern Road, like the last, starts from Nagpore by two distinct branches, the first from Seetabuldee, the second from the south-west of the city. These converge at a point two miles out of the city and station. Then in a single line the road goes southwards to Boree (nineteen miles from Nagpore) generally parallel to the railway, which however thrice crosses before it leaves the district. From Boree there is a separate branch of seven miles to Asola, a village, or one of the old routes to Bombay. Crossing the Wunna at Boree, the main line goes on in a southerly direction, leaving the district a little below a small village called Sonegaon, twenty-eight miles from Nagpore. Thence it continues by Jam (Wurdah District) from which place there is a branch to Hingunhat, to Wurrora (Chanda district), and so on to Chanda. It has now been completed as regards metalling, but the Wunna and other streams have not yet been bridged. This road too is planted with young trees throughout its course in this district. It has a dak bungalow and a serai at Boree, and there are Police posts at Boree and Sonegaon.

Southern Road.

The North-western Road leaves Nagpore at the northern suburb of Taklee, and crossing the Peelee nuddee and Kolar river by masonry

North-Western Road.

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causeways, touches the village of Dhygaon (ten miles from Nagpore). At this place it is met by a similar metalled road coming from Kamptee. Thence proceeding in a single line, the road passes Patunsaongee a little to the right, and so leads on to Saonair. From this point the road is still incomplete, but it is to be continued over the ghats to Chindwara. It is partly planted with trees. The chief streams are not yet bridged. There is an excellent serai at Saonair and a smaller one at Patunsaongee (fourteen miles from Nagpore). There are wells at short intervals. There are Police posts at Taklee, Patunsaongee, Saonair, and at Kelode.

Such is the extent and such is the course in this district of the new great imperial lines, which, serving, as they do, interests of a magnitude far surpassing any mere local objects, are yet, by reason of their convergence at Nagpore, the suppliers of inestimable benefits to the district. And if the work about to be described on the *local* lines appears (as it is) proportionately small, it must be recollected that progress upon them was delayed from want of funds until the last two years. It will be understood too that nothing in the way of roads belonging to the *Municipal towns* is included in this section.

New local lines.

The local lines now under survey and construction are:—

(1.)—Road from Nagpore *via* Kulmeishwur, Mohpa, Sawurgaon, and Nurkhair, to Mowar, on the extreme North-west frontier, on the river Wurdah, to open out the Katole sub-division of the district and connect it with the Railway. Of this road only fourteen miles have yet been demarcated. This distance takes the road into Kulmeishwur. Of these fourteen miles, eight have been completely bridged. In the remaining miles, bridging is going on. An avenue of trees has been planted along the first six miles. At Kulmeishwur there is a serai. The total length to Mowar will be fifty-six miles.

(2.)—Road from Oomrair to Boree (railway feeder); total distance twenty miles. This is to connect Pownee (in the Bhundara district) and Oomrair with the nearest point on the railway. This road has been completed for the first seven miles from Boree. Boree has a good serai and a Police outpost.

(3.)—Road from Khappa to join the imperial road Chindwara, at Patunsaongee, so as to connect Khappa directly with Nagpore; total distance nine miles. This line is all but completed. There are serais and Police stations both at Khappa and at Patunsaongee.

(4.)—Road from Boree railway station, to join the southern road; one and half miles. This is completed, and an avenue of trees has been planted.

(5.)—Road between Nagpore and Oomrair; twenty-eight miles. Of this, seven miles have been completed and bridged. None of the above roads are to be metalled for the present.

(6.)—Road from Munsur through Ramtek to the Ambala tank, distance seven miles. This is completed throughout as to earth-work and

The 30 years' Settlement has just been concluded. Under it every old Maafee, Mokasa, and Mukta tenure has been investigated, and where the grants under former rulers were capable of substantiation by Sunnud or otherwise, the rights have been maintained in favour of the holders for ever, or for life, or according to the terms of the original grant. No Maafee, Mokasa or Mukta estates have been resumed, except where the rights had been usurped.

The rest of the lands in the hands of the patels have been dealt with as *malgoozaree* with bestowal of full proprietary right in perpetuity on the patels or *malgoozars*, subject, of course, to enhancement of revenue at the close of the present settlement. The adjudication of claims to this proprietary right was generally simple. Sometimes, however, when a village had often changed hands, there was a good deal of difficulty. Present possession, and length of possession were allowed great weight, but not necessarily to outweigh all other claims. Where there were two or more claimants, the respective duration of their own or their ancestors' possession as patels at different times, the capital expended on the village, the circumstances under which a claimant, now out of possession had either himself, or ancestrally been deprived of possession, were all matters to be deliberated on and balanced before final conferment of the proprietary right. Often the claims were so nearly equal that the proprietorship had to be given in shares to the different claimants.

One other tenure has been recognized under the present settlement ; this is the *Malik Muqboza* proprietary right, or the proprietary right of a *holding*, as distinguished from an state or village. To describe this right I shall again quote from Mr. Ross' report :—

"Besides the above *descriptions of tenure, there has now been recognized the status held by a *Malik Mukboza* (proprietor of a holding). Proprietary right, it will have been seen, had not been hitherto acknowledged. It was now conferred in entire villages on those Malgoozars whose claims were considered strongest, and these claims were based chiefly on length of possession. But many of the cultivators had also been in occupation of their fields for long periods, and it was ruled that, in the absence of other *fixed and stronger claims*, the proprietary right, as respects the holding of such cultivators, should be conferred upon them. The determination of what should constitute a "*fixed and stronger*" claim, was left in a great measure to the discretion of the Settlement Officer. It was not sufficient alone to consider the period of possession, but also the character and nature of such possession ; and outlay of capital was one condition to be regarded in determining the question of right. No difficulty has been experienced in coming to a decision where the right was claimed by parties whose position differed in any way from that of an ordinary cultivator. Where the decision was dependant simply on length of possession, and outlay of capital, the relative positions of the malgoozar and cultivator would come under the following heads :—

- "I.—Where neither Malgozoar nor cultivator had expended capital.
- "II.—Where both Malgoozar and cultivator had expended capital.

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bridging, and three miles are metalled. An avenue of trees has lately been planted. This road connects the town of Ramtek with the imperial Northern road. The metalling will be completed next year.

(7.)—Road from Nagpore to Kamptee, from the heart of the city to the new Kamptee serial, eight miles. Five miles have been completed with bridging and metalling; the remainder will be done next year.

The following table will show the Imperial and local lines completed, and under construction in the district:—

Name of Road.	Description of Road.	Total distance in district.	Completed.	Under construction.	Not commenced and under survey.	REMARKS.
Northern Road ..	1st class metall ed.	Miles. 33	Miles. 33	Miles. ..	Miles. ..	
Eastern Road ..	Do.	29	29	..	..
Southern Road ..	Do.	37	37	..	..	Includes branch of 7 miles to Asola.
		*				
Northern Road ..	Do.	39	31	8	..	
Nagpore, Kulmeishwur, Mohpa, Sawurgaon, Nurkhair, to Mowar. ..	2nd class, unmetalled.	56	8	6	42	Includes branch from Kamptee to Dhygaon.
Boree Railway station to Southern Road. ..	Do.	1½	1½	..	..
Oomrair to Boree ..	Do.	29	7	1	12	
Khappa, Patunsaongee ..	Do.	9	9	..	..
Nagpore to Kamptee (short route) ..	1st class, metalled.	8	5	..	3	
Nagpore and Oomrair ..	2nd class, unmetalled.	28	7	..	21	
Munsur to Ramtek and Ambalak lake ..	1st class, metalled.	7	7	..	..	4 miles not yet metalled.
		267½	174½	15	78	

The effect of all of these recent works on the trade and general progress of the country is already very manifest. The railway has not yet been opened for four months, and already the goods' sheds and platform at the terminus are crowded with merchandize and wares of all sorts from Bombay and the West; and with cloth, cotton and agricultural produce of the surrounding country for export. The old routes to Bombay must be, and indeed already are, given up altogether for any other use than mere local traffic. The caravans of oxen bringing salt and jowaree, the long string of hackeries taking hence cotton and cloth, and wheat, rice, and other grains, to the West, must soon disappear altogether. Merchandise, instead of taking two months in transit between Nagpore and Bombay, is now being conveyed in three to four days.

Present effect of these recent works.

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"III.—Where the Malgoozar had established a claim by the expenditure of a large amount of capital, and the cultivator, though of old standing, had done nothing for the improvement of the land.

"IV.—Where the cultivator had expended more than an ordinary amount of capital and the Malgoozar had done nothing for the property.

"For the guidance of my Superintendents I ruled as follows:—In the first and second cases, if the occupancy of the cultivator was much longer—say twice as long, as that of the Patel—the claim of the latter was weak in comparison, and the cultivator was to be made *Malik Muqbooza*. In the third case, the Malgoozar's claim being undoubtedly stronger than cultivator's, the latter was not to be admitted. In the fourth case, the only consideration that could over-ride the preferential claim established by the cultivator would be longer possession by the Malgoozar. When this was wanting, the cultivator was to be made *Malik Muqbooza*. The right however was to be extended, in accordance with special orders from the Chief Commissioner, to cultivators of very long standing who had spent capital, and had enjoyed any special privileges, whatever the length of the Malgoozar's possession might have been."

occupancy rights.

As regards *cultivating* tenures, it has already been said that under the Mahratta rule no ryot was entitled to cultivate the same field in perpetuity. But, under certain rules prescribed in appendices VII and IX of the settlement code, cultivating tenures have now been recognised and recorded. They are, firstly, Tenants with absolute right of occupancy; secondly, Tenants with conditional right of occupancy; and thirdly, Tenants at will. The first class cannot, and the second class cannot while the law remains as it is, be ejected as long as they pay an equitable rent; the third class hold their leases at the pleasure of the proprietors.

The only other point I need notice in a sketch like this, is the exclusion from Malgoozaree of large tracts of jungle which have been retained as Government wastes. In settling the boundaries of villages bordering on jungle, a sufficient amount of waste was always given for grazing. But anything beyond a fair and just allowance has been retained as Government property. These Government wastes are extensive, many of them are partially culturable, and they are almost all capable of bearing excellent timber. They will, some of them, form a valuable source of revenue to the State in time to come. They are meanwhile disposed of in different ways. Some of them form forest reserves, or parts of forest reserves for the growth of teak and other valuable timber. Others are let out on clearance leases. Others are let out on annual usufruct leases; while a few have been sold out and out, free of land revenue assessment, under the Waste Land sale rules.

Government Waste lands.**Statistics of land, of revenue, and of holdings.**

Appended to this section is a tabular statement showing the number of estates, the acreage, and the Government revenue in each sub-division of the district, classified under the different tenures: Maafee, Mokasa, Mukta and Malgoozaree. The Malik Muqbooza holdings are included in this statement in the Mokasa, Mukta, or Malgoozaree estates to which they belong.

*As there are no cases in which Malgoozars have held for less than six years, it follows that no cultivator of less standing than twelve years, could be made a Proprietor of his holding.

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Again, the traffic, with Mirzapore and the East India Railway, Jubbulpore, and the North, heretofore spread over several local lines is now compressed into one channel along the new Great Northern Road. The large roomy carts used on the good roads in Upper India, are rapidly supplanting the miserable Mahratta hackery, giving the trader the power of transporting four times the amount of bulk with the same amount of draught, while transit takes up half the time that it did with the old lines, and is carried on continuously throughout the year. Besides its own intrinsic and lasting importance, it is worthy also of remark that, for the two years that will probably elapse before the opening of the Railway between Jubbulpore and Bombay, this road will have to bear the whole of the land traffic between Bombay and Calcutta.

Nor are these improvements, whether as regards the ease, the speed, or the continuity of the means of transport, less apparent in the case of the three other great imperial lines, though, from the larger rivers being still unbridged, the effects are not yet so complete. Even the local lines, unfinished as they are, have already done something to facilitate internal trade in the district, and to perform their work as accessories, and feeders of the railway, and the great lines.

River communications.

The conditions of the rivers being as described in Section I, it is needless to say that navigation, even in the largest of them (including the Wyngunga itself) can only be carried on during, and shortly after the rains. Even during the rains the difficulties in the way of navigation are great. They arise, first, from the velocity and strength of the currents rendering an *upward* voyage, even of empty crafts, an affair of great toil and duration; secondly, from the suddenness of the rise and fall of the waters, and the consequent continual *variations* in the depth of the different channels; thirdly, from the ledges of rock which sometimes form barriers right across the beds.

Barriers of rocks in river beds.

This last difficulty may be found to be within the reach of something like remedial measures. For example, the bed of the river Kunhan, between the town of Khappa and the Wyngunga, (sixty-three miles) has only four points where the rocks dangerously threaten navigation of small crafts in the rains. A scheme has been discussed for blasting the rocks at those points so as to afford a clear passage. Again, as regards the Wyngunga river, supposing an artificial channel could be made so as to avoid a heavy barrier of rocks at Tiddee, above Ambhora, there would be nothing whatever to impede navigation of light boats in the monsoon, from the junction with the Kunhan down to Pownee, one of the largest towns in the neighbouring district of Bhundara.

Notwithstanding all these drawbacks, the rivers Kunhan, Pench, and Kolar, and, of course, the Wyngunga, during and after the monsoon, may be, and are, navigated by loaded boats and rafts. They are not even as much used as they might be; yet timber, from the jungles below the Sautpooras, and forest produce are brought down in considerable quantities to Kamptee; and some consignments of grain from the north of the Bhundara district find their way down to Pownee and below.

None of the other rivers are either navigated or navigable.

District.	Tenure.	Number of estates.	Total number of acres.	Government revenue.	Average number of acres to each estate.	Incidence of Government revenue per acre.			
						Ra.	A.	P.	
Mangalore	Maafee	**	42	*14,124 44,561 24,391 1,94,077	** 14 2 11 0	1,650.9 71.2 607.5 427.8	** 1 0 0 0	** 1 3 9 9	
	Mokass	**	40	465	4,01,903	11 1 0	1,104.7 861.1	0 7	
	Mukta	**							
	Malgozaree (Government reserves).	**		38,591	...	..	..	..
	Total ...		537	5,43,624	2,21,970	9 3	..	..
	Maafee	**	55	6741	4,232	** 14 4	1,264.0 1,346.9	77.0 456.1 430.6	
	Mokass	**	20	69,525 26,838 3,57,127	14,419 9,721 1,67,220	8 4 0	942.3 932.4	0 0 0	
	Mukta	**							
	Malgozaree (Government reserves).	**		1,67,017	..	..	..	..
	Total ...		458	6,27,348	1,81,174	11 8	..	..
	Maafee	**	56	9,751 46,882 42,730	1,086 14,419 1,68,756	** 3 8 11	837.3 942.3 913.4	19.4 3,09.4 300.2	
	Mokass	**	45	5,42	4,95,080	..	..	..
	Nukta	**							
	Malgozaree (Government reserves).	**		62,279	..	..	..	..
	Total ...		643	6,56,782	179,962	0 5	..	..
	Maafee	**	28	6,830 29,675 13,614	** 0 5 14	.. 1,056.2 1,504.8	.. 21.3 121.4	.. 0 0	
	Mokass	**	9	447	4,13,276	2,00,750	10	924.5 449.1	13 0
	Mukta	**							
	Malgozaree (Government reserves).	**		46,613	..	..	..	..
	Total ...		454	5,09,888	2,12,288	13 0	..	..
Katole	Maafee	**	2122	23,36,592	7,94,696	2 4	..	..
	Mokass	**							
	Mukta	**							
	Malgozaree (Government reserves).	**							
	Grand total ..								

* Last column shows the incidence upon each acre of total acreage; the average incidence on each cultivated acre for the whole district is 11 annas 5 pie.

Education, still comparatively backward, is now undoubtedly making rapid advances. Formerly the only educated classes were the Brahmins, and a few of the Mussulmans. The agriculturists, generally, were devoid of any education whatever; the traders and shopkeepers knew just enough to be able to keep their accounts. There were some indigenous schools, but the standard of learning to be acquired in them was extremely low.

The present system of public instruction was inaugurated in the year 1862; the total number of boys' schools in the district is now 104, or 1 to every 1,106 of the non-adult male population. The different institutions may be thus classified:—

<i>Class of School.</i>	<i>Number of Institutions.</i>		
Normal School,	1
Zillah do.	1
Grant-in-aid do.	4
Anglo-Vernacular Town school	8
Vernacular do.	9
Village do.	45
Indigenous do.	32

The Normal school,—the local institution for teaching and training masters,—is at Nagpore. This establishment has not been able completely to meet the local demand for masters, many of whom have had to be brought from the Bombay Presidency; but so far as it has gone, it has done well. Each pupil receives from Rs. 10 to 4 monthly for his support.

At the zillah and grant-in-aid schools, a superior education is given both in English and Vernacular. The zillah school is at Kamptee, the four grant-in-aid schools, at Nagpore and Kamptee. The latter have been established by the Free Church of Scotland Mission, and are called "grant-in-aid" from the fact of their receiving regular pecuniary assistance from Government.

In the Anglo-Vernacular town schools is given a thorough instruction in the Vernacular, (Mahrattee,) a fairly good course of geography, arithmetic, and the ground-work of the study of English. The other town schools give the same course, with the exception of English. These town schools are established only in the larger and more populous towns. They are supported partly by grants from general revenues, partly by municipal funds, and partly by voluntary subscriptions.

The cost of village schools is defrayed entirely from the educational cess, which is a tax of 2 per cent on the land revenue of the district, and is paid by the landowners. In these schools the standard is lower than in the town schools.

The indigenous schools are supported by fees from pupils. They are established by the people themselves, and have no connection with Government, except that they are inspected by the educational authorities. These schools receive grants-in-aid according to the payment by results system. The course of study is rather lower than that of the village schools.

NAGPORE,
SECTION XII.
Education.

Government
schools.

Normal
school.

Zillah and
Mission
schools.

Town
schools.

Village
schools.

Indigenous
schools.

NAGPORE.
SECTION XI.
Communications.

Road-making
when begun.

Nagpore
specially
fortunate.

Railway.

Old routes
before 1862.

Northern
route to Ju-
bbulpore and
Nagpore.

The construction of roads, whether main or branch lines, is of very recent date. Under the Mahrattas, the only made road was the line towards Sumbulpore,—a fairly serviceable road made under English superintendence for postal service between Calcutta and Bombay. This postal route was long ago discontinued, and the road fell into disuse. Excepting this, the only road, until very lately, was the short line (9 miles) from Nagpore to Kamptee, which was metalled, and bridged some years ago.

The history of road-making in short is comprised entirely in the period succeeding the year 1861, when the Central Provinces' Administration was formed. During the past five years strenuous exertions have been made to open out both main and branch lines. A liberal expenditure of money and labour, and a large amount of professional skill have been brought to bear on their construction; and the operations have been continuously maintained.

In this respect Nagpore has been obviously at a great advantage, as compared with any other district in the Central Provinces; for as most of the new imperial lines of communication leading to distant places have all been planned so as to radiate from Nagpore, the capital of the Central Provinces, so it has happened that the Nagpore district has reaped both in the first instance, and in the most plentiful degree, the advantages which these great works have conferred on the country at large.

The recent arrival of the railway at the Nagpore terminus has linked the district with Bombay. Four great imperial roads starting from the City of Nagpore, traverse the district to the north, to the south, to the east, and to the north-east; while district cross-roads and feeders (purely local works) are being pushed forward from town to town, and from tract to tract, whose trading and agricultural interests the railway and the great imperial roads seem most likely to subserve.

The result of these operations has been to work a complete metamorphosis on the circumstances and conditions, on which traffic and transport depend. And since the change is remarkable, not merely from its magnitude, but still more so from the rapidity with which it has been brought about, it may be worth while to describe the old, before enumerating the new routes of communication, so as to portray the full contrast between the present and the scarcely past. The following descriptions will be easily understood by a reference to the revenue survey map.

The main line of communication from the north, via Seonee from Mirzapore and Jubbulpore, descended the Sautpoora ghat at Koral in the Seonee district; and passing through Deolapar, entered this district, a little above Chorbaolee, twenty-eight miles from Nagpore. Here the line doubled, one branch going via Raiktek, the other by the village of Soneghat: and both again converging at a village called Khairee, proceeded thence in a single line via Satuk to Kamptee, crossing the Kunhan at the Yerkhera ghat at the centre of the military cantonment. Again between Kamptee and Nagpore there were two routes,—the one by the present metalled road (Great Northern) to See-

NAGPORE.

NAGPORE DISTRICT.

The total number of boys now studying in these schools is 5,654. The total number of non-adult males in the district is 113,996. So that about one boy in twenty is receiving education. And if due allowance be made for boys too young or too old to go to school, then the proportion would be about 1 to 13.

Female schools.

In the matter of female education, only a commencement has been made. There is a normal school at Nagpore for the purpose of training school mistresses ; and there are now nine ordinary schools,—five at Nagpore itself, and four at towns in the interior of the district.

The statement below shows the progress of education in each of the different classes of schools from the commencement of the system, up to the present time :—

Statement showing the state of schools in the Nagpore district during the last 5 years.

Description of schools.	1862-63.		1863-64.		1864-65.		1865-66.		1866-67.	
	Schools.	Scholars.	Schools.	Scholars.	Schools.	Scholars.	Schools.	Scholars.	Schools.	Scholars.
Male Normal school	1	70	1	54	1	39	1	45	1	59
Zillah school	1	100	1	112	1	102	1	174	1	130
Grant-in-aid schools ⁴	3	531	4	640	6	670	7	735	7	704
Anglo-Vernacular Town schools .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	1 003
Vernacular Town schools .. ..	..	..	19	1 281	17	1 239	17	1 263	9	604
Village schools	19	767	38	838	41	901	41	1 276	45	1 753
Indigenous schools	58	1 244	39	1 082	40	1 069	41	1 070	32	1 341
Total Boys' schools	82	2 712	102	4 007	106	4 020	108	4 503	103	5 654
Female Normal school .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	22	1	19
Girls' schools .. ..	..	..	2	43	2	39	3	53	9	100
Total Girls' schools .. ..	..	..	2	43	2	39	4	75	10	20 9

The present results, considered absolutely, may appear poor ; they yet offer a very favourable contrast to the state of things five years ago, and seem, indeed, pregnant with promise of cumulative progress.

Nagpore, the seat of administration of the Central Provinces, and the district head-quarters, is situated in the centre of the district, on the left bank of a small stream called the Nag. The municipal limits include, besides the City, the suburb of Seetabuldee, the European station of Seetabuldee, and Taklee, and a considerable area of land under cultivation.

The soil is for the most part 'regur,' or black soil. The drainage of Taklee and Seetabuldee is good ; the site of the City is low, and the drainage is ill-defined, but the general slope is to the south-east. The Seetabuldee hill, on which stands the fort, may be regarded as the centre of the municipal limits, and from its summit is to be seen the best view of the Station, and surrounding country. Below on the north

**Section XII.
Principal towns.****Nagpore.**

buldee, the other from the place where the Kamptee serai now stands to the heart of the Nagpore City. This line was in full use for seven months of the year. Traffic was all but impossible during the rains and October. The whole line lay through a dense jungle from Chorbaolee up to the top of the ghats; and this region was unhealthy from malaria for at least four months of the year. Nobody ever travelled at night on account of wild beasts. People obliged to travel in the rains, preferred to go from Seonee to Chindwara, and so to Nagpore by the old Chindwara line.

The principal routes from Bombay and Berar entered the old Nagpore Province at three separate points on the Wurdah river. These points are : (1) Julalkhera, in the north-west corner of the Katole tehsil; (2) Bishnoor; and (3) Nachengaon, both in the present district of Wurdah. The first of these routes was in distance from Nagpore 56 miles, the second 67 miles, the third 58 miles.

Of these, the most important was that crossing at Nachengaon. Traversing the present district of Wurdah from west to east it entered the Nagpore district near Asola, twenty-six miles from Nagpore, which it reached by way of the villages Takulghat and Goomgaon. It was by this route that the bulk of the export trade of cloth, and silk fabrics was conveyed to Jaulna, Aurungabad, Sattara, Poona, and other distant cities in the Deccan. The line by Bishnoor was used in a degree hardly less. It proceeded by Kailjhur (Wurdah district), Kondhallee, and Bazrugaon. The Julalkhera route went by the town of Katole, and traversing the Katole tehsil from north-west to south-west, and then passing through Kulmeishwur, entered Nagpore at Taklee.

All of these lines may be described to have been, and to be, practicable during the dry months for the light country carts used here, but impassable, save for pack bullocks during the rains. Such traffic as was obliged to be taken in the rains would generally choose the Bishnoor line, which is the stoniest of the three, but which traverses less morass and black soil than either of the others. The traffic both ways in the dry months along the Bishnoor and Nachengaon lines was enormous. Security at night was afforded by well known paraos which were supplied with water-wells, and ordinary provisions for travellers.

The routes from the Bhundara, Raepore, and Chutteesgurh country, entered the district by two main lines; the first leading direct from the town of Bhundara to Mahoda (twenty miles from Nagpore), on the Kunhan, and so through the Pardee suburb into Nagpore; the second connecting with Nagpore the towns of Moharee and Toomsur, in the Bhundara district, and the northern portion of the Raepore country, entered the district east of Virsee, and passing through Tharsa, went westwards to Kamptee. So far as can be ascertained these lines were occasionally used by strong convoys of Brinjarees with pack-bullocks even during the rains; but like all the rest, they were at that season utterly impracticable for wheeled traffic. By these lines were delivered the imports of wheat, rice, and other grain from Chutteesgurh.

NAGPORE

Western and
West coast
routes to
Berar and
Bombay.

Eastern lines.

and west, lies the prettily wooded station of Seetabuldee; beyond this, on the north, are the military lines and bazaars; and again beyond these, partially hidden by low basaltic hills, is the Taklee suburb,—once the head-quarters of the Nagpore Irregular force, but now occupied only by a few bungalows. Close under the southern side of the hill is the native suburb of Seetabuldee. Below the eastern *glacis* is the railway terminus. Beyond this lies the broad sheet of water known as the Jooma Tulao, which separates the city from the station and suburbs. The view is bounded on this direction by the buildings on the extreme east of the tank. The city itself, though immediately east of the tank, is completely hidden from the sight by a mass of foliage.

The site of the European station is pretty and undulating. It is in general well wooded, though some parts, especially towards the extreme west, are somewhat bare. The roads are lined with ornamental trees. The bungalows of the European residents are generally thatched, and plain in appearance; but most of the enclosures have gardens immediately surrounding the house, and contain good trees planted here and there, so that the general aspect of the place is cheerful and pleasant. During the hot weather the ground looks parched, but in the rains and cold season, the verdure is bright and pleasing. Outside the City there are handsome tanks and gardens, constructed by the Mahratta sovereigns. The three finest tanks are the Jooma Tulao, between the city and station, and the two artificial lakes of Ambajherry and Telinkherry. Of these, the largest is the Ambajherry, and the smallest Jooma Talao. The storage of water in these artificial reservoirs is very large. The retaining walls are built of massive basalt masonry, and are admirably constructed. The Jooma Tulao supplies a considerable portion of the city with water. The other two lakes are at some distance from the city. They afford a partial supply of water to certain portions of the city and station by means of pipes. These great artificial tanks are real ornaments to the place, and form a lasting monument of the best times of the Bhonslah rule. The principal public gardens are the Maharaj Bagh, in the station of Seetabuldee, now managed by the Nagpore Agri-Horticultural Society; the Toolsee Bagh, inside the city; and the four suburban gardens of Paldee, Shukurdhurra, Sonegaon, and Telinkherry. These four are maintained in good order by local funds, and form agreeable places for public resort and recreation. There are no Mahomedan mosques of any note. Hindoo temples are numerous. Some of these are in the best style of Mahratta architecture with elaborate carvings.

The Bhonslah palace, which was burnt to the ground in 1864, was the only dwelling house of any structural magnificence. It was built of black basalt profusely ornamented with wood-carving. The courts in its interior possessed small gardens and fountains. The great "Nukbarkhana" gate, which is now the only remnant of the palace, is an imposing structure. The tombs of the Bhonslah kings are in the Shookrwaree quarter, to the south of the city. These are in no way magnificent, though their construction is curious. The best is that erected over the ashes of the great Rughojee. It is in the form of a cross, the arms projecting some

NAGPORE.

Seetabuldee.

Artificial
lakes round
Nagpore.Public
gardens.Bhonslah
palace and
mausoleum.

NAGPORE.

ten feet from the body of the tomb. It has some narrow pillars or minarets, said to be in memory of the Ranees who immolated themselves on his funeral pyre. The tombs of the Gond Rajahs are in no way striking. They are just ordinary plain Mussulman tombs, without any architectural merit.

General aspect of the City.

In spite of the extensive municipal improvements of the last five years, the general aspect of the city is even now poor and insignificant, when compared to the wealth, and number of the inhabitants. The new great thoroughfares are indeed excellent roads, well metalled, and well drained; and there is a considerable number of excellent edifices belonging to the richer inhabitants; but the great majority of houses are of mud walls with tiled roofs. The walls are often made to look well by a coating of white or straw coloured plaster; but the houses are older than the roads, and were built originally without any regard to frontage, so that it was impossible to secure a good frontage when the new roads came to be made through the most populous quarters. Thus many of the houses in the new streets appear irregularly built, and of a style not suitable to the excellence of the roads. Still, perceptible improvement is being made, the old houses are gradually disappearing in several of the principal thoroughfares, and new buildings of a superior description, and built in regular line, are taking their places. The total number of houses is 32,450; of which 1,580 are built of stone or brick with flat masonry roofs; 23,553 are tiled, and the remainder, 7,317, thatched: some of the better classes of houses are ornamented with well executed wood-carving. The principal thoroughfares in Seetabuldee are Bootee street, and the Seetabuldee bazaar road, with the Temple bazaar square between them. As has been stated before, the fort lies between the European station and the city. Immediately east of the fort is the railway terminus, and the railway line running north and south. East again of the railway line is the Jooma lake, immediately beyond which is the "Jooma durwaza" entrance to the city. The city is connected with the European station by three great lines, of which two are respectively, on the north and south banks of the lake; while the third, the most northern, crosses the railway by an overbridge north of the terminus. The last after crossing the railway becomes the Goorgunge road, and traverses the north part of the city from west to east. The two first are connected together by a road on the eastern embankment of the lake. In the centre of this road is the entrance to the Jooma durwaza street. This is the main street of the city. A double storied line of shops extend for about a third of a mile up to the site of the old Bhonslah palace, through a square called the Gutchee Paga, and so on eastwards through the town. The Jooma durwaza and the Goorgunge roads are the main arterial lines of traffic running east and west through the northern and southern portions of the city. They converge in the suburb of Paldee some little distance out of Nagpore. They are connected by various lines running north and south, the principal of which are the Purchi Powlee road and the Itwarree. The other principal streets are the roads leading from the Nukbarkhana gate of the old palace, and from the Gutchee Paga to the Toolsee Bagh. The Shookurwares and

Gradual improvement is being made.**Main streets and roads.**

the Shukurdhurra roads leading from the Jooma durwaza road to suburbs on the south side of the Nag; and the new Kamptee and Indorah roads leading through the northern outskirts of the city towards Kamptee. The best streets are the Jooma durwaza, the Goorgunge, and the Itwarree. The houses belonging to the Marwarrees at the northern end of the Itwarree are curious old buildings, of three and even four stories high, and profusely ornamented with woodwork. The street here is very narrow, and is the only really oriental looking part of the town. The principal grain markets are those at Bughurunge, at the eastern end of the Jooma durwaza road; and the Shookurwaree, and the Shukurdhurra, to the south of the Jooma durwaza. The bulk of the cloth trade is done in the Goorgunge road and its immediate neighbourhood. The jewellers and bankers reside mostly in the northern end of the Itwarree. Large weekly bazaars are held in the Goorgunge square and in the Gutchee Paga.

NAGPORE.

Markets.

Municipality
of Nagpore.

Municipal concerns are managed by a committee, of which the Divisional Commissioner is the President, and the Deputy Commissioner of Nagpore the Vice-President. The committee consists altogether of twenty-seven members, of whom ten are official, and seventeen elected annually. Of the last, two are English, and the rest Native gentlemen of position and influence. The municipal revenue derived from octroi and miscellaneous sources amounted in 1866-67 to Rs. 133,212; of which Rs. 28,287 were spent in watch and ward; Rs. 16,000 in conservancy; and the remainder in material improvements.

Local im-
provements
and conser-
vancy.

The improvements of the last five years have consisted chiefly in opening out, and improving the main lines of communication. These works have indeed been carried on with a rapidity and comprehensiveness, which have sufficed to alter the entire appearance of the place. Before 1862, the only well-constructed road within the city, was the Jooma durwaza, and that only as far as the site of the old palace. The station roads, too, have of late been greatly extended and improved. The conservancy arrangements are good. The public latrines are on the dry earth system; the private latrines are periodically inspected.

Water supply.

The supply of water is plentiful, but many of the wells in the city do not contain good water. Pipes from the Ambajherry, and Telinkherry lakes supply only a few of the houses in the station and city. A scheme of water-supply for the whole city, and station, from a reservoir to be made at Seetagoudee, north of the station, has lately been proposed by the committee, and is now under consideration. Both town and station are considered healthy. Liver complaint is the most frequent illness amongst the Europeans, and fever amongst the natives. Visitations of cholera occur at intervals. Smallpox is common, but is gradually yielding to vaccination.

The entire population of the city and suburbs of Nagpore, inclusive of military, is as follows:—

Population.

Adult males ...	...	...	...	...	29,532
Do. females ...	...	...	...	...	33,035
Male infants ...	...	...	...	...	11,621
Female do. ...	...	...	...	...	11,473
<hr/>					
Total ...					85,661

Of these, 456 are Europeans and Eurasians, and 10 are Parsees.
The native population is thus divided according to castes:—

Brahmins	..	..	..	..	..	17,413
Rajpoots	..	..	..	..	..	296
Buniahs	..	..	..	..	..	766
Kusars	..	..	..	..	..	803
Seepees	..	..	..	..	..	1,136
Bidoors	..	..	..	..	..	2,842
Parwars	..	..	..	..	..	791
Sonars	..	..	..	..	..	770
Marwarrees	..	..	..	..	..	843
Purdesees	..	..	..	..	..	2,913
Koonbees	..	..	..	..	..	7,271
Telees	..	..	..	..	..	8,176
Lodhees	..	..	..	..	..	192
Malees	..	..	..	..	..	1,310
Gooroos	..	..	..	..	..	348
Beldars	..	..	..	..	..	969
Hulwaees	..	..	..	..	..	63
Gosaens	..	..	..	..	..	420
Buraias	..	..	..	..	..	920
Dhobees	..	..	..	..	..	544
Koshtees	..	..	..	..	..	8,462
Katicks	..	..	..	..	..	200
Naees	..	..	..	..	..	628
Bhohees	..	..	..	..	..	1,057
Brinjaras	..	..	..	..	..	80
Madrassee castes.	..	..	..	..	..	2,972
Booroors	..	..	..	..	..	434
Dhers	..	..	..	..	..	5,472
Chumars	..	..	..	..	..	1,917
Mangs	..	..	..	..	..	198
Purdhans	..	..	..	..	..	1,060
Aheers	..	..	..	..	..	490
Rungarees	..	..	..	..	..	470
Barees	..	..	..	..	..	344
Mahrattas	..	..	..	..	..	6,453
Kulals	..	..	..	..	..	680
Dheemurs	..	..	..	..	..	461
					Total Hindoos	75,164
Syuds	..	..	..	..	..	1,383
Puthans	..	..	..	..	..	2,894
Moguls	..	..	..	..	..	806
Sheikhs	..	..	..	..	..	4,940
					Total Mussulmans	9,523
Gonds	..	..	..	..	..	508

And thus, under trades and professions, women and children being shown as belonging to the profession of the male head of the family:—

Landholders	..	..	..	..	479
Tenants	..	..	..	..	3,577
Farm servants	..	..	..	..	18,397
Cowherds	..	..	..	..	55
Shepherds	..	..	..	..	147
			Total agriculturists	...	22,655
Bankers	..	..	..	..	6,867
Priests	..	..	..	..	1,070
Grain-sellers	..	..	..	..	3,627
Cloth and English goods merchants	..	..	..	..	3,135
Grocers	..	..	..	..	958
Tobacconists	..	..	..	..	247
Confectioners	..	..	..	..	155
Washermen	..	..	..	..	757
Workers in iron	..	..	..	..	635
Do. in gold and silver	..	..	..	..	1,323
Do. copper and brass	..	..	..	..	500
Carpenters	..	..	..	..	2,311
Masons	..	..	..	..	3,722
Weavers	..	..	..	..	4,529
Potters	..	..	..	..	306
Rope-makers	..	..	..	..	202
Pan-sellers	..	..	..	..	147
Brinjaras	..	..	..	..	200
Barbers	..	..	..	..	952
Butchers	..	..	..	..	183
Coolies	..	..	..	..	17,395
Tailors	..	..	..	..	878
Pleaders	..	..	..	..	87
Servants	..	..	..	..	7,377
Liquor-sellers	..	..	..	..	952
Shoemakers	..	..	..	..	1,332
Oil-sellers	..	..	..	..	233
Dyers	..	..	..	..	764
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	2,714
			Total non-agriculturists	...	63,006

The Police force is divided into seven divisions or wards. The strength is as follows:—

- 1 City Superintendent.
- 6 Chief Constables.
- 38 Head Constables.
- 222 Constables.
- 9 Boy orderlies.

276 Total.

The Police are thus as 1 to every \$10 of the entire population.

The Pandharpur assessment in the year 1866-67 amounted to Rs. 31,493. The trade of the town is large and increasing. The chief articles of import are wheat and other grain, salt, country cloth, European piece and miscellaneous goods, silk and spices. The grand article of manufacture and export is country cloth. The general prospects of the cloth trade have been discussed in a former section of this report. The finer fabrics of Nagpore have long been celebrated, for their richness, and good quality, and are still, in spite of the competition of English stuffs, in great request, not only here, but in distant parts of the country.

The following table shows the entire trade for the years 1865-66, 1866-67:-

NAGPORE.

At the head-quarters of the Administration the public offices are, of course, numerous. They are, most of them, in the civil station of Seetabuldee. The old Nagpore Residency, now the official residence of the Chief Commissioner, is situated in an extensive and well wooded park. The building itself is commodious, but of a very plain and unpretending exterior. The Secretariat is a large and substantial pile of buildings. The other public offices in the station are held in ordinary-looking houses and bungalows, in no way differing in external appearance from private dwelling-places. The most notable public offices in the City are, the Small Cause Court, lately built on the southern bank of the Joomah Talao; the Tehselee, an old Mahratta building in a good style of architecture; the Honorary Magistrates' Court; the Currency office; the Bonded ware-house; and the Police station houses.

The useful and charitable institutions are the following :—the Nagpore Central Jail,* an excellent building, consisting of two large octagons, built to contain 1,200 prisoners ; the City hospital, with three branch dispensaries in different quarters of the town ; the † Lunatic asylum ; the Leper asylum ; the Seetabuldee poor-house ; the Free Church Mission Native school ; and the Bishop's school, for the education of European and Eurasian boys. There are three public serais, or travellers' rest-houses, besides several private dhuirmsalabs. The Native schools are shown below :—

<i>Description of school.</i>	<i>Number of schools.</i>	<i>Number of pupils:</i>
Mission school, Nagpore ..	1	286
Do. Seetabuldee bazar ..	1	76
Do. do. station ..	1	22
Practising school ..	1	69
Indigenous schools ..	22	827
Female Normal school ..	1	20
Girls' schools ..	5	33
Total ..	33	1417

The following Native gentlemen of the City are Honorary Magistrates. They decide a large number of criminal cases :—

1. Rajah Janojee Sahib, Rajah of Deor.
2. Rao Sahib Trimbuljee, Nana Ahir Rao.
3. Purbut Rao Sahib, Goozur.
4. Dadoba Sahib, Sirkey.
5. Madho Rao Gungadlur, Chitnuvees.
6. Rajah Sooliman Shah.
7. Ragoba Mohitea.
8. Balajee Sudasheo Bootee.
9. Mookond Balkrishna Bootee.

* There are now 854 male and 54 female prisoners.

† 32,380 patients were treated in these institutions during the year 1866-67.

‡ The present inmates of the Lunatic Asylum are 76 males and 16 females.

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10. Rao Sahib Tejram.
11. Chitkojee Rao Baba Sahib, Goojur.
12. Lala Jumnadoss.
13. Nowab Hussein Ali Khan, of Mohpa.
14. Sheikh Mehboob Hoosein Khan.

The military *force consists of a small detachment from the English regiment at Kamptee, and the head-quarters of a right wing of Native infantry. The former garrison the fort. The military works of the fort (built in 1819) are about to be remodelled and strengthened. The arsenal, which is just below the fort, contains considerable stores and munitions of war.

No part of the town is more than 160 years old. Its history is so completely connected with the general history of the country which has already been sketched, that it would be superfluous again to enter on the subject here. In Bukht Boolund's time (A. D. 1700) the site of the City was a low swamp on which were twelve small hamlets, known collectively as "Rajahpore Bharsah." Chand Sultan, Bukht Boolund's successor, was the first sovereign who made Nagpore his capital. Traces of a circumvallation made by him still exist. The town was probably most populous just at the close of the reign of the second Rughoojee. In Sir Richard Jenkins' great report of 1826, the inhabitants are shown to have numbered over 111,000; since then the total population has much declined. There has however been no decrease in the mercantile and industrial classes. The artizans are much more numerous now than in the days of Sir Richard Jenkins. The diminution has occurred in the non-industrial classes, in the numerous semi-military retinues of the chiefs, and the servants and hangers-on attached to that retinue. The bulk of these people have now disappeared, having taken to agricultural or other employments elsewhere. Their exodus was a necessity of later times and circumstances, and is certainly not a subject for regret.

Bailah.

Bailah is an agricultural town, ten miles south of Boree, on the left side of the river Wunna. It is within three miles of the borders of the Wurdah district. The site of the town is hard and stony, though there is good land adjoining.

The population numbers 5,092. The town duties amount to about Rs. 4,800 annually, and the Pandhari assessment to Rs. 725. The local Committee have recently constructed two fine "baolees," school and police buildings. The number of pupils at the Government school is 69. A large quantity of strong plain cotton cloth is made, and exported from Bailah; and the manufacture of "gunny," the strong cloth of which the Brinjarees' packs are made, is important; this latter branch of industry is in the hands of the caste here named "Dhangur."

The town, according to the local traditions, was founded in the time of the Gaolees, and was subsequently held, together with towns and districts to the south, by some Mussulman feudatory of the Deccan. The fort was built by one Rai Singh, Chowdree, a large landholder in this part, and whose descendants are still malgoozars of Bailah. The fort was twice rebuilt during the Pindaree troubles.

*Present Force consists of one Company, H. M's. 102nd Royal Madras Fusiliers, Head-quarters and Wing 36th Regiment N. I.

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Bazargaon.

Bazargaon is situated in a very picturesque part of the district, about twenty-five miles west of Nagpore, on the old road to Bishnoor and Oomraootee. The village consists mainly of one long broad street lining the road on each side. The houses are remarkably good and substantial, and the whole place is clean and well kept. The number of inhabitants is 1,993, mostly dependent on trading. Many of these traders are Jains. Living on the great road to Berar and Bombay, they were in former days able to forestall the Nagpore traders, and, taking advantage of the fluctuations of the markets, to make their own terms with the Brinjara "tandahs" bringing salt and other merchandise to Nagpore. Since the opening of the railway, the importance of the through traffic by this—the "Bishnoor—route," has greatly fallen off. The octroi duties produce about Rs. 1,000 per annum; and the Pandhari assessment is Rs. 525-8-0 annually. There are 64 boys being educated at the Government school. An excellent building for Police, and a good school-house, and other municipal works have recently been constructed. On the west side of the town a very handsome masonry tank was constructed about twenty-three years ago by the father of Ranojee Naik, the present proprietor of the lands of Bazargaon. The grove on its bank is a favourite encamping place for the "Brinjaras" and travellers. There is a fort on the south side of the village built about 60 years ago by Darkojee Naik, which has withstood several attacks from the Pindarees. In the year 1758, Eesramjee Naik Gackwar, a powerful Zemindar of Aurungabad, left his own country, entered into the service of the Rajah Janojee of Nagpore, served with distinction, and fell in battle. The Rajah invited his younger brother Darkojee to take service in this country. In the Nagpore service, the young Darkojee became a Resaldar, commander of 5,000 mercenaries, and Commissary General. He was a favourite officer of the Rajah. He founded the town of Bazargaon and built the fort. After the death of Rughoojee II, he supported the party of Dhurmajee Bhonslah against Appa Sahib, and some of his Arabs attacked and put to flight the royal body-guard. He was too powerful to be punished openly by Appa Sahib. His grandson, Gowrajee, succeeded to his lands and honours, and built the great tank. Ranojee Naik, the present representative of the family, receives a pension from Government.

Belona.

Belona, situated four miles north-east of Mowar, and fifty-six miles from Nagpore, is built in a very rich plain on the banks of a small tributary to the Wurdah. The houses are generally poor.

The population is purely agricultural, and numbers 3,492 persons. Since octroi has been levied here, some improvements in the village have been taken in hand by the local Committee, and the village now has its school, bazaar-place, and streets. The school numbers sixty-two pupils.

Bhewapore is sixteen miles south-east of Oomrair, and forty-four from Nagpore on the road from Oomrair to Pohonee, in Bhundara. Close to it is a small river named the Murhoo, a tributary of the Wyngunga. The town itself is closed in on the north and west by

Bhewapore.

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fine groves of mango trees, and by a large tank. The inhabitants number 4,557 persons, a great proportion of whom are well off. The houses are generally good. English, as well as Vernacular, is taught in the school. The number of scholars is 113. The octroi duties produce about Rs. 3,460 annually, and have been spent by the local Committee in the construction of two good metalled roads through the town, a new school-house, serai, and market place. A large public baolee, or well with steps leading down to the water, has been made in the market place. Improvements are now going on in excavating the bed of a fine tank outside the town, and enlarging and converting into a road the high earthen retaining wall.

The appearance of the town is neat and clean. The Pandhari assessment amounts to Rs. 644-8-0. A considerable amount of trade and banking is carried on; this last is mostly in the hands of Aggurwalla Marwarrees, who have been long settled here. The town is celebrated for the manufacture of good cloth, inferior only to that produced at Nagpore and Oomrair. This place was a very early settlement of the Gonds. The original settler was one Bheem Sah, who, in the middle of the sixteenth century, built the now dilapidated fort as a protection to his little colony. Around this grew up a thriving town, early noted for its manufacture of silk and cloth. A poor blind Gond, confidently asserted both by himself and by the people, to be the lineal descendant of the original founder of the town, still lives in the old fort. He receives a small pension from Government; his only son is now a pupil in the Government school, the last of his race, and probably the very first to cultivate the art of letters.

Bhewapore is the head town of a considerable group of estates, held in Mokassa tenure by Chitkojee Rao Goojur, a cousin of the Rajah of Deor.

Boree.

Boree is a thriving village built on the left bank of the river Wunna, and lying between the Great Southern Road and the railway. It is nineteen miles from Nagpore. The population is 3,371, mostly employed in agriculture or in weaving, and dyeing country cloths. The Rungarees (dyers) are an important section of the people. Cloths dyed at Boree are in especial request, as the dye—of a red brick colour—is very durable. This quality the dyers ascribe to properties possessed by the waters of the Wunna. The Pandhari assessment amounts to Rs. 441-8-0. There are several fine groves to the north of the town, and some good gardens. Near the railway station is a commodious serai lately built, and on the Great Southern Road is a good dak bungalow. There is a Government school with 74 pupils. The town was founded by one Sufdur Khan, a Pathan Silladar of Bukht Boolund. It remained in his family for 75 years. It afterwards was held by Mynah Baee, Nimbalkurin, who, with a garrison of 200 men, successfully held her fortress against three raids of the Pindarees under Tippoo Booran.

Dhappewarra.

Dhappewarra is a small town built on both banks of the Chundra, bhaga, in the midst of a plain of great fertility. It is distant twenty miles north-west of Nagpore, and equidistant from Kulmeishwur and

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Saonair. The population amounts to 4,566, of whom a great proportion are Koshtees, employed in the manufacture of cotton cloth. The village is well drained, clean and healthy. There is a Government school with 67 pupils. The manufacture of cotton goods was established here earlier than in almost any other town in the district, so that in other quarters a person wishing to establish the manufacture in his own town would send to Dhappewaria for skilled workmen. The fort, which stands in a commanding position overlooking the town and the river, was built for protection against the Pindarees about 60 years ago. The town was first settled by Koonbees from Khandeish; and the property is said to have continued in the family of the original settlers for full 300 years, until, some 30 years ago, they were disposed to make room for the present owners, who are Rajpoots.

Goomgaon.

Goomgaon is a small town on the left bank of the Wunna river, twelve miles south of Nagpore. Its inhabitants amount to 3,342 persons who are mostly employed in agriculture, though a considerable quantity of cotton cloth is manufactured by the Koshtees. The octroi funds for the year 1866-67 amounted to Rs. 2,040. The Pandhari assessment is Rs. 503-8-0. The municipal funds have been spent by the town Committee, in making a street through the town, in building and supporting a school, and improving the bazaars. Near the Police quarters, in a commanding position overhanging the river, are the remains of a very considerable Mahratta fort, and near this is a fine temple of Gunesh with strongly built walls of basalt facing the river. Both fort and temple were erected by Chima Baee, wife of the Rajah Rughoojee II, who may be said to have founded the town, and since whose time this estate has continued in the direct possession of the Bhonsliah family. The school numbers 69 pupils.

Jelalkhaira.

Jelalkhaira is about fourteen miles west of Katole, where the Jam joins the Wurdah, which river is here about one hundred yards wide, and separates Nagpore from Berar. The population numbers 3,396 persons, mostly cultivators. On the Berar side of the river is the town of Amnair. In Jelalkhaira are the remains of a fort of large size. Tradition assigns to it a Gaolee origin. Over nearly two square miles around the present village are to be found traces of the old town of Jelalkhaira. It is said that at one time this place had 30,000 inhabitants, but that it was brought to ruin by becoming the prey of lawless Puthans, who were but nominally subject to the Nizam. It was the scene of cruel slaughter of the Hindoos by the Mussulmans, and afterwards by the relentless suppression of these Puthans by the Nizam's Soobadar, Kissen Chund. It is certain that Jelalkhaira and Amnair together, on the left and right bank of the river, once formed one large and populous city.

Kalledo.

Kalledo is about seven miles north of Saonair, on the main road to Chindwara. It is situated at the foot of the Sautpoora hills, and has a population numbering 4,303 persons. The land northwards is generally stony, in other directions deep and fertile.

The octroi duties produce a yearly revenue of some Rs. 2,500. The funds have been employed in the construction of roads, drains, schools

NAGPORE. and police buildings, and a bazaar square. The Pandhari assessment amounts to Rs. 436-8-0.

There are several old established firms of Marwarree money-dealers in Kailode, but the business they carry on is mostly local.

The chief branch of industry is the manufacture of brass and copper vessels of a good description. These are exported to places as distant as Oomraotee and Raepore. Besides this, the only manufacture is that of rough glass ornaments. Kailode is said to have been founded fourteen generations ago by the ancestors of the present malgoozar and Deshmook, at the same time that a neighbouring Gaolee chief impounded the waters forming the extensive old tank at Jutghar near the town.

The fort, now falling to decay, seems to have been built in the early Mahratta period. The school numbers 54 pupils.

Kamptee.

The town and cantonment of Kamptee is nine miles north-east of Nagpore, on the right bank of the river Kunhan, immediately below the junction of that river with the Pench and the Kolar. The cantonment proper, that is the military lines and bazaars, extends in one long narrow line along the river, and is laid out on the principle of a camp, except that the cavalry are on the extreme left instead of on the right. The town is a little distance south-east of the cantonment, and separated from it by an extensive parade ground. The whole cantonment (which, besides the cantonment proper and the town, includes a considerable area of cultivated land) is in the shape of a trapezium, having for its longest side the river bank. The total area is 4,598 acres or about seven square miles.

Both cantonment and town present a remarkably neat and tidy appearance. The roads are particularly well kept. The main thoroughfare through the cantonment is a handsome broad line of road, extending from the artillery lines on the extreme right up to the cavalry lines on the left. The appearance of the cantonment is rendered agreeable and cheerful by the avenues lining the roads, and by the neatly kept gardens and compounds surrounding each bungalow. The bungalows themselves are generally thatched, and poor in appearance, though there are one or two exceptionally good residences. During the monsoon fine views are to be obtained of reaches up and down the river.

The town is well laid out and built in regular streets at right angles to each other. The streets are broader and better drained than is usual in this part of the country. The total number of houses is 8,129, of which 1,960 are of stone or brick with flat masonry roofs; 5,820 are of mud with tiled roofing. The walls of these last are coated with white or colored plastering. There are only 349 thatched huts. The cantonment used to be considered unhealthy. This reputation however was probably resulting from the mortality amongst the troops in by-gone times, before the improvements in barrack accommodation, and in sanitary arrangements. Of late years the death rate in the

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military force has very greatly decreased. The supply of water is chiefly from the Kunhan. But there are, besides a large artificial tank and 360 wells.

The Pandhari assessment for the year 1866-67 amounted to Rs. 12,301. The octroi in 1866-67 realized Rs. 1,20,000, of which Rs. 13,457 were spent on watch and ward ; and Rs. 1,06,543 on municipal improvements and conservancy.

Municipal affairs are managed by two separate committees, each of which has its separate functions. The committees consist of non-official Native, as well as ex-officio English members. The President is the Brigadier General Commanding the force.

Municipal improvement of all sorts has been continuously maintained for many years past. Great attention appears to have always been paid to the roads. The most recent of other material improvements are an excellent masonry tank, constructed partially at the expense of Bunsell Abeerchund, Rae Bahadoor, Honorary Magistrate, the most influential Native resident of Kamptee ; the Temple Gardens (costing 57,000 rupees), a place of public recreation tastefully laid out and containing an artificial lake ; an excellent serai for travellers ; and a large central market place.

The town has its dispensary and various schools and Dhurmsallahs. In the cantonment there is a large public building used for Municipal meetings, station theatre, public receptions, &c. The Protestant church (built in 1833) is a commodious structure. There is a Roman Catholic establishment of the order of St. Francis de Sales, with its Convent and large church. There are five Mahomedan musjids, and seventy Hindoo temples.

The total population, inclusive of military, is as follows :—

Adult males ...	..	..	..	..	20,382
Do. females ...	..	..	..	..	14,818
Male infants ...	..	..	..	..	8,317
Female do. ...	..	..	..	..	7,413
					—
Total ...					50,930

Of these, 2,011 are Europeans or Eurasians.

The Police force consists of :—

Inspector	..	..	..	1
Chief Constables	..	..	..	2
Head Constables	..	..	..	11
Constables	..	..	..	120
				—
Total ...				134

The police are as 1 to every 380 of the total population.

The Brigadier General Commanding the force is the chief civil executive as well as military authority in the Cantonment. The Cantonment Magistrate is the Civil Judge as well as Magistrate. There is one Honorary Magistrate, Rae Bahadoor Bunseall, a wealthy and in-

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fluential Marwaree banker. The present military force, which is a first class Brigade command belonging to the Madras establishment, is as follows :—

	European non- Commis- ioned officers,	European Commis- ioned officers, and rank and file.	Native Commis- ioned officers,	Native non- Commis- ioned officers and rank and file.
Staff	11	10	0	0
C. Battery, D. Brigade Royal Horse Artillery				
Head Quarter 30th Brigade Royal Artillery	19	368	6	0
C. Battery 14th Brigade	Do.	Do.		
F. Battery 20th Brigade	do.	do.		
3rd Regiment Madras Light Cavalry	9	2	10	308
Her Majesty's 102nd Regiment Royal Madras Fusiliers	25	692	0	0
1st Regiment Madras Native Infantry	8	2	16	655
12th do. do. do.	5	0	14	654

The trade of the town is large and flourishing, though there are no manufactures save a little coarse cloth. The greatest amount of business done is in grain and oilseeds of all sorts, country cloth, salt, European piece and miscellaneous goods. There is a considerable trade in cattle. There is also a good traffic in wood, which is floated down the rivers Kunhan, Pench, and Kolar, and sold here. The trade of the town has been registered for some years. In the year 1866-67 the declared value of the exports of Kamptee was Rs. 20,47,266; of its imports Rs. 68,94,369.

It will be obvious that so large a trade as this does not depend on the supplies for troops alone. The fact is, that during the Mahratta rule traders flocked to Kamptee on account of the immunity to be enjoyed within the cantonment from the taxation to which they would have been subjected anywhere else in the Nagpore Province. The grain trade is almost entirely in the hands of the Marwarees.

The history of the place dates only from the establishment of the cantonment under Brigadier General Adams in 1821. Previous to that year there were no habitations here, except one or two hamlets on the banks of the river. But, on the other side of the river, where the village of old Kamptee now stands, there are some ruins indicating the existence of a little town long ago.

Katole.

Ten miles north-west of Kondallee, and forty miles from Nagpore, is Katole, the present head-quarters of the Katole tehsil. It lies on the left bank of the Jam, a tributary of the Wurldah. The population amounts to 4,116 persons, most of whom are agriculturists. A new school building, and a market place have lately been constructed by the local committee. Some attempts too have been made to open out the town with new streets; but the site on which the town is built is extremely uneven, and intersected by ravines. Almost all the houses are thatched, and the general aspect of the place is mean. The remains of an old fort are still to be seen overhanging the river banks. An ancestor of the present landholder, an immigrant from Lucknow, settled

in this town nearly 300 years ago. There is one strange temple of a much earlier date, built entirely of layers of sandstone which must have been quarried many miles off. No mortar is used about it, and the stones have many grotesque carvings. It is called the house of "Bhowanee," but is without any image, and without any legend, save that of an undefined miraculous origin. The landholder of Peit Boodhwar (a suburb of Katole) has some Mokassa lands, and a title as "Deshmook" of Katole. The pupils in the school number sixty-six.

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Khappa.

Khappa is situated on the right bank of the Kunhan river, 20 miles north of Nagpore, with which it is connected by the Imperial Road towards Chindwara as far as Patunsaongee (14 miles,) and thence by a main district road (six miles.) The total population is 7,876, of whom only 703 are agricultural, and the rest non-agricultural. The number of houses is 2,471, of which 2,155 are tiled, and the rest thatched. This town is one of the most thriving and wealthy in the district. It is built on a site high above the river, and immediately overhanging it. On the land side it is completely shut in by fine groves. The octroi duties average nearly 10,000 rupees annually. The Pandhari tax is assessed at 1,113 rupees. The late municipal improvements have been extensive. Not to speak of small works, four good metallled roads, drained with masonry channels, converge in the "Chowk," or central market-place, which is lined on all four sides by good substantial buildings, erected by the traders. The dispensary, the school, and police buildings, and a serai, are among the recent municipal erections. The town is well kept, and its general appearance is now more suitable than it used to be to its status in reference to its wealth and population. The school (where English forms one of the branches of study) has at present 116 pupils. There is a small force of town police.

Khappa.

The town is healthy, and well supplied with water, both from the river and from numerous wells. Melons are cultivated to a considerable extent on the sandbanks in the bed of the river. The great manufacture of Khappa is its cotton cloth; which is of good quality and strength, though inferior in texture and dye to that of Nagpore and Oomrair. The exports of Oomrair consist chiefly of country cloth; its imports are cotton, wool, and cotton yarn, grains, European goods and hard-ware, and silk thread. The imports for the year 1866-67 were valued at Rs. 2,54,983.

There are several firms here which have large transactions in Hoon-dees with Poona, and other distant cities. The town is said to be of early date, but there is no known event of interest connected with its history.

Khodamaindee.

Khodamaindee is on the banks of the river Soor. Distance from Nagpore 32 miles; in direction north-west. The population, mostly agricultural, numbers 1,909 souls, of whom 53 are Mussulmans, and 1,956 Hindoos. The number of houses are 437. The town is built on a slope closely overhanging the river. Outskirting the town there are fine groves of mango and tamarind, and some excellent gardeii cultivation. The houses are particularly neat and well kept for so small a town.

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Municipal funds in 1866-67 amounted to Rs. 4,596, of which Rs. 326 were spent on police, and the remainder on local improvements. The more recent municipal erections are a good school-house, police outpost, serai, and market-place; a good broad street has recently been made right through the centre of the town; 54 boys are being educated at the Government school. Some coarse cloth is manufactured. There are about 40 looms at work. The "goor" made here is believed to be the best in the district. The town is said to have been founded by one Jumal Khan, a Puthan, a retainer of the Gond prince Bukht Boolund, about the year 1710, A.D. But no trace of Jumal Khan's family is now to be found. The lands passed many years ago into possession of near relatives of the late reigning family, and now belongs to one of the lineal descendants of that house.

Kondallee.

Ten miles west of Bazaargaon, and thirty-five miles from Nagpore, on the Bishnoor road, situated among picturesque groves and hills, and valleys, is the little town of Kondallee, containing a population of 3,128 persons. After the cotton gathering season, the bazaar is brisk. The town has its newly laid out streets, and its school, and police buildings, bazaar-square, and travellers' rest-house. The hills around this place are wild and wooded, and much infested with tigers and bears. The original settlers came from Berar, about 250 years ago. The school numbers forty-eight pupils.

Koohee.

Koohee is rather a poor town, twenty-two miles south-east of Nagpore. It has a population of 3,305 persons. It is surrounded by very fine groves of fruit trees, and has some large tanks which irrigate rice fields. The town is in the heart of the wheat country. A small sum is raised by town duties, and the Pandhari assessment amounts to Rs. 515-8-0 annually. There is a police out-post and new school building. The school now numbers 53 scholars. The town seems to have been founded by a Koonbee immigrant from Berar in the reign of Bukht Boolund.

Kulmaishwur

Fourteen miles west of Nagpore is the flourishing town of Kulmaishwur, with 5,339 inhabitants.

The town is built on a plain of black soil lying low, and has a bad natural drainage. The slope of the country tends to the north-east towards the Chundrabhaga. The plain to the north and west is very fertile, but towards Nagpore the country is sterile and stony.

In the gardens west of the town, opium, sugarcane, and tobacco are raised. The town has a very considerable trade in grain, oilseeds, and country cloth. The pressing of oilseeds is also carried on to a great extent: as many as eighty mills are kept continually at work. Cloth is the staple manufacture; it is of medium quality, and is mostly sent to be sold at Kandupore and other places in Berar. The exports and imports of agricultural and manufactured products for the year 1866-67 amounted in value to Rs. 154,817; and the exports to Rs. 66,525.

The proceeds of the octroi duties (about Rs. 9,000 annually) have been laid out to great advantage. The Committee have made a handsome and commodious bazar-place, and from this have opened wide metalled roads towards Nagpore, Katole, Dhappewarah and

Mohpa. Facing the bazaar square on one side are the Police station and school house; a serai is to be added. On the other side are excellent shops belonging to the wealthier traders.

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The Pandhari assessment for Kulmeishwur is Rs. 785. In the centre of the town on a natural elevation is the old fortress, now the residence of the malgoozar. It was a fort of considerable strength, and has resisted many attacks of the Pindarees. It is said to have been built by the original settlers, who were Hindoos from Delhi. The family rose to opulence, possessed many villages around, and in the reign of Bukht Boolund maintained, for the service of the prince, 400 foot soldiers and 100 horse. Under the Mahratta rulers, the heads of the family were the Deshmooks of the Pergunnah of Kulmeishwur.

Family quarrels and the ravages of the Pindarees reduced the family, till in A. D. 1810 their estates and houses were transferred to Dhurmajee Bhonslah. After the murder of Dhurmajee, the family was reinstated by Appa Sahib, but not being able to show sunnuds for their possessions, were dispossessed in the next reign, and their landed property given over to the family of the present malgoozars, who are "Purdaesee Koonbees."

Mandhul. Mandhul is a small town about fifty miles south-east from Nagpore; the population is 2,522 persons. Like Koohee it has a fairly good school, numbering about 50 scholars; it has a small manufacture of plain cotton cloth.

Mandhul.

Moheda. Mohoda is situated on the eastern bank of the Kunhan, on the great road from Nagpore to Bhundara, nineteen miles from either place. The fort of Eshwunt Rao Goojur, who holds the Mokassa of Mohoda, overlooks the ghat. Outside the castle walls is a good bazaar-square. An excellent serai has been recently built opposite to the Government dak bungalow. There is a good main street running north and south past the police quarters, and the new school-house. There are 687 houses, and 3,148 inhabitants; the non-agricultural portion of which is mostly engaged in the manufacture of cotton cloth. There are 71 pupils at the Government school.

Mohpa. Mohpa lies between Sawargaon and Kulmeishwur, twenty miles from Nagpore, and is built on the left bank of the Chundrabhaga.

Mohpa.

It has a population of 5,509, mostly agricultural. The Malee caste is numerous, and in consequence most of the very rich land close to the village is cultivated, and irrigated like a garden. It is the chief place in a small but rich talooqa belonging to the Nawab Hussun Ali Khan, the representative of an old and distinguished family. A school-house has recently been built. The number of scholars is fifty-eight. The Nawab collects his own octroi, and arranges for conservancy, and watch and ward. The new road through Kulmeishwur to Sawargaon will pass through this town.

Mowar. Mowar is six miles north of Jelalkhaira, and about sixty from Nagpore, on the left bank of the Wurdah. The country around is extremely fertile, and is covered with groves and garden cultivation, which completely surround the town on all sides but that of the river.

Mowar.

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The town is flourishing, having 3,762 inhabitants, mostly engaged in cultivation, or in the manufacture of ordinary cotton cloth ; many municipal improvements have recently been undertaken. The octroi duties average from Rs. 4,500 to 5,000 annually. These funds have been laid out in the construction of a good bazaar, new streets, school and police buildings.

Two large dams have been made on the banks of the river, which used often at these points to overflow, and flood the town during the monsoons.

The Pandhari assessments amount to Rs. 481. The town has the reputation of being somewhat unhealthy.

The trade of Mowar is considerable. The declared value of its exports for the year 1866-67 was Rs. 1,21,501, and of its imports Rs. 324,869.

Nugurdhun.

Nugurdhun, now a decayed town, is about four and half miles from Ramtek, just off the old Kamptee road. It was formerly a cavalry station of the Nagpore Rajahs. An old castle is still remaining, outside which an action was fought at the time when the English were besieging Nagpore, in December 1817. It has a population of 2,893 persons. A school-house has recently been built. There are at present 101 scholars.

Nurkhair.

Nurkhair, a town of considerable size, is four miles from Belona, and fifty-two from Nagpore, on the Baitool road. Its population amounts to 7,319, mostly employed in agriculture. A good bazaar square, retaining walls of masonry facing the river, school and police buildings, and streets, have recently been made, the cost being defrayed partly from town duties, and partly by private subscriptions. The Pandhari assessment amounts to Rs. 729. The cloth manufactured here is not more than sufficient to supply the local demand. The town is prettily situated among extensive groves, but is not considered to be healthy, probably from an overcrowding of the population.

Oomrair.

This town is situated twenty-eight miles south-east of Nagpore. It is the head-quarters of the Tehseeldar of Oomrair Tehseelee or subdivision. The population is 12,050. Of this number 610 are Mussulmans. The number of houses is 2,643, most of which are tiled, and the remainder thatched. About 1,000 of the former are good substantial buildings in brick, but none have any pretension to architectural beauty. The rest have only mud walls, but are in many cases set off and made to look well by a coating of white plaster. The different castes are distributed as follows :—

Brahmins	..	..	..	..	830
Rajpoets	..	..	..	..	494
Purdesees	..	..	*	..	82
Kulals	..	..	..	..	105
Buneahs	..	..	..	..	84
Marwarrees	..	..	..	..	70
Budhaees, Sonars, and Kasars	..	..	..	..	461
Koshtees	..	..	..	..	3,852

				NAGPORE.
Koonbees, and cognate castes	..	..	4,042	
Khatiks	..	..	58	
Gosaees and Goorows	..	..	236	
Low castes, such as Dhers, &c.	..	..	1,126	
				<hr/>
	Total Hindoos	..	11,440	
				<hr/>
Mahomedans	Sheikhs	..	..	119
	Puthans	..	..	175
	Syeds	..	..	316
				<hr/>
	Total Mussulmans	..	610	
				<hr/>
	Total population	..	12,050	

The town is built on a light sandy soil, and has a well defined slope towards the river Amb, which flows past the town about three-quarters of a mile to the north of it, so that the natural drainage is good. The shape of the town is triangular, having the apex towards the south-east, and the base on the western side; municipal funds in 1866-67 amounted to Rs. 8,500. There is a small force of town police. The head-quarters of the Oonrair circle of district police is also located here.

The following are the more prominent works of public utility that have recently been completed. Three new streets completely bridged and metalled have been made through the town. The principal of these streets leading through the central market-place is an excellent road of forty feet broad, with its centre metalled to a width of twenty-two feet, and planted with trees on each side. The second road is a continuation of the last, leading below the old fort just outside the town to the extremity of a suburb about half a mile distant on the Nagpore road. The third street leads from the fort above mentioned right through the most populous quarter, past the dispensary and school-house, to the two others, being in most places only twenty-two feet from house to house across; it is well bridged and metalled. The total length of these new roads is three and half miles. The remaining streets are narrow and ill-constructed, and much has yet to be done to improve them. The central market-place is a space of about seventy yards square, with shops somewhat rudely constructed all round. It is well planted with young trees, and the whole square is metalled. The Government school-house is commodious. The dispensary is a good looking building, and is a real ornament to the town.

Some improvements have lately been effected in the way of excavations to two large tanks on either side of the town. These tanks were intended to supply water both for men and cattle during the hot season; but they have as yet very inadequately fulfilled this object. The excavations in the smaller one have lately been completed. The second tank is a very fine one, and is now being operated on in a way that will make it a real benefit, as well as an ornament to the place. It lies on the south of a large old fort, and part of its eastern bank flanks the principal road above described. Large excavations are now being made, and the

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earth thrown up is being disposed so as to form a boulevard, which will be planted with trees, and have a metalled walk in the centre. The tank receives the water due to a very extensive gathering ground. Hitherto the water has been suffered to go to waste in the rainy season by a long line of escape ; this is being remedied, and it is hoped that a storage of water will be now secured sufficient to supply the wants of the people throughout the dry season, and still to leave a quantity of water to cover the whole area of the bed. The expenses of this really important work are being defrayed partly from municipal funds and partly from private subscriptions raised by the inhabitants. The town possesses a nursery of young trees kept for planting out, and an attempt has lately been made to start a garden in the interior of the fort. The Tehseelee building is a commodious structure.

A good number of old trees exist in and about the town. The mango groves adjoining it on the east side are remarkably fine and extensive, but most of the country immediately around it is bare and uninteresting.

Wells are numerous and generally contain good and pure water, especially those situated near the two tanks mentioned above; but in some of those in the interior of the town at its highest parts the water is brackish.

The town contributes annually in Pandhari Rs. 1,770 to the general revenues.

There are a number of bankers and mercantile firms.

The declared value of the imports into Oomrair during the year 1866-67 amounted to Rs. 3,30,497, and of the exports to Rs. 207,828.

The town is noted for its cloth manufacture. The best cloth is really superior, having indeed a celebrity far and wide in this part of India. The fine cloth is sent to Poona, to Nassick, to Pundhurpoor, in the Deccan, and even to Bombay. The 'Koshtees,' or weavers, are consequently an important class in the town. The celebrated Oomrair "Dhotees" consist of very fine cotton cloth, with silk embroidery all round. The embroidered borders are designed in various ways, the pattern being according to the fancy of the weaver. The width of the border ranges from an inch to as much as one foot and a half. Some of them are really very beautiful, both as to texture of the cotton cloth and workmanship in the embroidery. Some of the best specimens recently carried off medals at the late Exhibitions at Lucknow, Agra, Nagpore, and Jubbulpore. The manufacture is supposed to have been first established here in consequence of some peculiar virtue in the water of some of the wells in fixing the different dyes on the silks. And the dyes, especially the crimson, obtained here, do seem to have a richer hue than those obtained elsewhere.

There are now 1,150 looms at work, keeping about twice that number of men in full employment. The journeymen workmen amongst the weavers earn from Rs. 10 to Rs. 25 a month according to their different degrees of skill. There are only a few principal master weavers, and in their hands is the bulk of this trade.

NAGPORE.

The average health of the population is good.

The state of education is like that of all other towns in the district,—originally backward, but progressing. The Government school here is doing a great deal of good, and is spreading learning by the widest means of diffusing it,—the training of many pupils who are themselves destined to be masters.

The following table shows the progress of the school during the past four years :—

YEARS.	Total number of boys.	Average daily attendance at school.
1863-64	173	133
1864-65	165	124
1865-66	156	113
1866-67	236	171

The education, until lately, has been entirely in the Vernacular (Maharattie). But recently a subscription has been raised for the establishment of an English class, and English is now taught.

The dispensary, which is superintended by a good native doctor, was established a few months ago. It is already doing a great deal of good. The average number of patients treated daily is now 112.

The town is a little less than 200 years old. The site on which it is built was the centre of a jungle extending southwards near to Chimoor, in the present district of Chanda. A large grant of land in this jungle was made towards the close of the 17th century by Bukht Boolund to one Moonajee Pundit from Chimoor, the ancestor of the present land-holder, who still retains the old title of "Deshpandia," conferred on his ancestor by the Gond sovereign. Moonajee Pundit brought cultivators from the Chanda district, and soon made an impression on the jungles. The town advanced gradually, but did not rise into any thing like its present size until after the year 1775 A. D., when Moodhajee Bhonslah, who was then managing affairs at Nagpore for his son, the 2nd Rughoojee, came to the place for a visit. He built the large fort which, though utterly neglected for many years, is still in excellent preservation, where its walls have not been destroyed by man. After Moodhajee showed favour to the place, the cloth manufacture began to be established, and in a very short time the town rose to its present size. There are no temples or shrines of any note. The fort is the only architectural remnant worth mentioning. It was a narrow rectangular figure, three hundred yards long, and eighty broad, with walls of massive brick-work with bastions. The walls are about thirty-five feet high, and about twelve feet thick at the base, lessening to two feet at the summit. Only two sides now remain. The place has several wells inside, and must, in old days, have been very strong, considered in relation with any artillery that could then have been brought to bear against it.

NAGPORE.
Parseonee.

Parseonee is situated in the Doab of the Kunhan and the Pench rivers, about six miles from the place where the latter river debouches from the hill country. It is about 18 miles from Nagpore. It contains 1,048 houses with 4,019 inhabitants. The bazaar is of importance, as it has to supply the whole of the wild hill tracts of Bhewghur. There is a good school (number of scholars 102.) A new metalled road traverses the town from east to west. There are two very fine temples here. "Pan" (betel-leaf) is much cultivated near the old tanks. The only manufacture is that of coarse cloth and pottery of fair quality.

Patunsaongee.

Patunsaongee is situated on the left bank of the Kolar near its junction with the Chundrabhaga. The plain around is very fertile, and considerably elevated above the bed of the river. It is fourteen miles from Nagpore. The metalled road from Nagpore towards Chindwara passes close to the town. The population numbers agricultural, 2,800, non-agricultural, 1,932. The octroi funds of this town in 1866-67 amounted to Rs. 2,300. The Pandhari assessment is Rs. 552-8-0. Cotton cloth is manufactured, and exported to a considerable extent. Tobacco is much cultivated and exported. The chief improvements of late in the town are, the building of a good market place, and a serai, and the construction of metalled roads and streets. The town is of considerable antiquity. Traditions in the "Sustanik" (Gond Rajah's) family tell how in A. D. 1742, in the struggle between Wullee Shah and the legitimate princes, at one time as many as 12,000 men were massacred by the victorious party in and around the now ruined fort. It continued to be the station of a troop of horse up to the decease of the late Rajah. Until lately, it was the head-quarters of a Tehseel. The number of boys attending the Government school is 110.

Ramtek.

Ramtek, the head-quarters of the Tehseel of the same name, is twenty-four miles north-east of Nagpore. It lies four miles east of the Nagpore and Jubbulpore road, at the southern foot of a ridge of hills detached by a few miles of cultivation from the undulating forest country, which extends up to the base of the Sautpooras. The town is built on a sandy and gravelly soil, and is surrounded by extensive groves planted about the base of the hill. The houses are generally well and substantially built.

The population amounts to 7,933. Of these, one-twelfth are Mussulmans, one-eighth are Brahmins, one-eighth Baraes (pan gardeners). Of the remainder, one-half are cultivators. There are very few weavers, no Marwarrees, but many Parwar shopkeepers of the Jain religion.

The trade of Ramtek is not important, except that from hence a great quantity of betel-leaf is exported. The quality of the Ramtek "pân" has long been well known, and large quantities have always been taken into Seonee, Chindwara, Jubbulpore, the Berars, and other districts. During the last ten years the cultivation had languished till the opening of the railway, since which time a large export has begun towards Bombay; prices have considerably risen, and the area of cultivation is increasing. The cultivation of pan is said to have flourished here for three centuries, having been introduced from Deogurh by an ancestor of the present owner of the gardens.

The octroi duties last year realized about 4,500 rupees, which sum was spent by the town Committee in the support of their schools, town police, and on municipal works. A good metalled road from Munsur is now nearly completed through the town to the village of Amballah, where, on the banks of a small lake, an annual fair is held in the month of "Kartik". Last year there were not far short of 100,000 people present during the busy fortnight. There is an excellent bungalow on the ridge of the hill, about 600 feet above the plain. From this spot a varied and extensive view is obtained in every direction. The Tehseelee is a commodious structure at the western end of the town.

Ramtek has ever been a chosen seat of religious veneration amongst the Hindoos. Of the many old temples, the oldest appears to be one near the summit of the hill on the north side. It is built of hewn stones, well fitted together without mortar. From its shape and structure it is probably a Jain temple; though local tradition would make it the work of one Hemat Punt, by some said to have been a Brahmin, by others a "Raksha," (demi-god) and with whose name so many remains of buildings in the Bhundara and Nagpore districts are connected. This temple is also near the modern "Parwar" temples, a large and handsome group, enclosed in courts well fortified against approach from the plain to the north. The centre of interest, however, is the group on the western extremity of the hill, where the temple of Ram, (Ramchunder) the tutelary god, stands conspicuous above the rest, and above the walls of the citadel. The hill on the south and west sides is protected by a lofty natural scarp; the north side alone is very steep, and has a double line of defence. The inner line belongs to the citadel; the outer one from the western point, running below the citadel walls, gradually gets wider apart, till some 300 yards beyond the inner portion it turns to the south, and is carried across a narrow valley which leads down to Amballah. From the place where it meets the bluff on the south side of the hill, facing the town of Ramtek, it is continued along the edge, here strengthened with a bastion, there with barrier walls, blocking up the small ravines which creep up the hill side, till it joins at the extreme west point, the more recent walls of the citadel. This outer fortification is now in ruins. Though of rude construction, it was high and strong, and made by piling ponderous stones on one another. It is without doubt very old, and is believed to be a work of the Gaolees. It enclosed a considerable village, a few traces of which are still seen. Within this triangular enclosure, the citadel is at the western and highest extremity, having the chief temples at the apex of the angle. It was only on the eastern side that the approach of an enemy could be feared. To ascend to the citadel from the Amballah side, the road passes under a small wooded hill, having on its top a fortified summer palace, accessible from one side only. It is said to have been built by a rajah of the Sooraj Bansee, (Solar race). Following this road, which after passing through the town winds first round the outer, and then round the inner side of the southern ridge of the hill, we have in front the embankment of the tank, along which a line of defences, with strong bastions flanking the gateway, was built by

NAGPUR.

Rughojee I. Inside this is Amballah, with its pretty lake, its bathing-ghats, and numerous temples, each belonging to one of the old Mahratta families of this country. From the western corner of the tank, flights of stone stairs for a half mile in length lead up to the citadel, passing through the Gaolee walls by a narrow gateway. All pilgrims going to worship at the temples ascend the hill by this way. Nearly at the top on the right is a large and very ancient open baolee, with a Dhurumsala attached. To the left are two plain but very old temples of Krishna in the Avatar of Nursingh. Opposite to these is a plain mosque, said to have been built in commemoration of a great man in the retinue of the Padshah Aurungzebe.

From this a flight of steps leads up to the outer gate, a massive building, which, with all the outer line of walls belonging to the citadel, was built by the first Mahratta ruler. Inside the gateway, on the right, are Hindoo temples of Narrain; on the left are other temples, where Parwars annually resort. Passing through this lower court, the Singpore gate, in the second line of walls, is reached. The buildings here are much more ancient than those in the first line, and are referred to the time of Sooraj Bansee. In the second court, the Mahrattas had their arsenal, a few wall-pieces are still left. The third court is reached through a very fine gateway called the Bhyrao Durwaza; in this part the walls and bastions restored by the Mahrattas are in very good repair. This innermost court has on either side the dwellings of the servants of the temples, and at the further end the Gokul Durwaza, a building of the most fantastic architecture leading to the shrines of Gunputee and Hunooman; and lastly, built on the edge of the bluff, the shrine of Rama. From this inner court another series of stone stairs lead down into the town of Ramtek. In the time of Rughojee I, the fort with its temples must have been safe from any force which could then have been brought against it.

Though the name of Ramtek is seldom heard in Hindooostan as a celebrated resort of pilgrims, yet the annual number of visitors is very great. The great fair attracts people from Raepore, Bhopal, and Hyderabad.

All attempts to obtain, from the traditions of the people, a coherent or intelligible history of the various ancient shrines and ruins, have proved fruitless. The buildings themselves throw little light on the past. The present fortress was in great measure built or restored by the Mahrattas. In the beginning of the Mahratta times, two very fine old baolees, which had for ages been covered over by earth, were discovered, long after all tradition of their existence had been lost. These certainly were built before the ascendancy of the Gonds, which may have begun from as far back as 400 years ago. These baolees and much of the temples and citadels must be ascribed to Hindoos, such as the traditional Sooraj Bansee rajahs,—immigrants from Ayudhaya. Anterior to these are the Gaolee walls, and traces of a Gaolee town; and still earlier the small Jain-like temples built without mortar. The architectural characteristics of the different races are easily

distinguishable the one from the other; but what gaps of time separated the eras of the Jain and the Gaolee, the Sooraj Bansee, and the Gond, can only be the subject of conjecture.

NAGPORE.

Saonair, another of the most prosperous towns in the district, is situated twenty-four miles north-west of Nagpore, just off the main road to Chindwara. It has a population of 4,895 persons, the majority of whom are employed in agriculture. The town, built on both sides of the Kolar river, in a plain of considerable fertility, is surrounded by field and garden cultivation. The soil is the deep "regur," or "black cotton." The annual proceeds from octroi average over Rs. 8,300. Here, too, the municipal improvements of the last few years are remarkably good. A good branch road, metalled and planted with trees, connects the town with the Imperial line from Nagpore to Chindwara. This road leads into the new market-place at the eastern entrance to the town. The market-place is in the form of a circle, within which are large masonry platforms for the accommodation of the traders and their wares; from the market-place two broad metalled roads, one leading south-west, and the other west, traverse the town in the most populous quarters. These two lines are connected by a third street of similar dimensions, running north and south through the town. There is a Government dak bungalow, and amongst the more recent structures are a handsome serai and good buildings for the police and the school, in which 95 scholars are now taught English as well as Vernacular. The town has a large cattle market held weekly. A considerable quantity of cotton cloth is manufactured, and exported mostly to the Deccan. The manufacture of snuff of inferior quality is in the hands of the Mussulman population. The fort, situated near the centre of the town, is now in ruins. It must formerly have been a place of large extent and great strength, and the lines of fortifications are different from, and more elaborate than, those built in the time of the Pindaree incursions. All the inhabitants persist that it was built before the time of the Gonds by some Gaolee chiefs; but about the latter they can give no particulars. However that may be, the town has belonged to the "Sustauik" family for many generations continuously, and the present Gond Rajah is now proprietor of the Saonair lands.

Saonair.

Sawargaon lies on the road from Nagpore through Nurkhair to Bai tool. The new road under construction from Nagpore *via* Kulmeishwar and Mohpa, through the heart of the Katole tehsil, will pass through this town, to which it has recently been determined to move the head-quarters of the Katole tehsil. It is forty-four miles from Nagpore, and has a small agricultural population of 2,590 persons. The country immediately around is hilly and stony. Since town duties have been levied efforts have been made to provide a good supply of water from a scarcity of which the people are often put to great inconvenience. Sawargaon has its new school and bazaar square. The present malgoorazarin is a lady of the Mahratta house of Ghatkey. The number of pupils at the Government school is fifty-three.

Sawargaon

Takulghat is a prettily wooded village, built on an elevation near the Kishna, a tributary of the Wamna, distant twenty miles south of Nag-

Takulghat

NAGPORE.

pore, and three miles west of Boree. Its inhabitants number 1,851, and are entirely agricultural. The old road from Nagpore to Hyderabad passed through the village. The present village dates from about the year 1,700; but from mounds around the village, and from the rough circles of stones on the hills about a mile distant, have been dug fragments of pottery, flint arrow-heads, and iron-ware. To these has been assigned a questionable Scythian origin. There is a Government school with twenty-six pupils.

Weltoor.

Weltoor is a small straggling town, about forty miles south-east of Nagpore, and near the picturesque hill of Ambhora, which overlooks the Wyngunga. It has a population of 2,112 persons. It has some fine groves and tanks around it, its new school and police buildings, and market-place. There is some cloth manufactured, most of which is exported. The school numbers 55 pupils.

Wakoree.

About two miles down the Kunhan, and on the same bank, is Wakoree, an agricultural village of 2,759 inhabitants. This place is said to be of much older date than Khappa. A school-house has recently been erected : number of scholars sixty-one.

GAZETTEER
OF THE
CENTRAL PROVINGES.

PART V. { NIMAR.
NURSINGPORE.
RAEPORE.

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A S : S O C : B



NIMAR

NIMAR.

Nimar is the westernmost district of the Central Provinces. On the east it marches with the Hoshungabad district, the Chota Towa river, and its tributary the Gungapat flowing north, and the Golae river flowing south, marking its boundary almost from point to point; on the north it touches the territories of the Powar of Dhar, and of the Maharajah Holkar; and on the west it is bounded throughout by the dominions of Holkar. On the south it meets the Kandeish Collectorate of the Bombay Presidency, and the border of west Berar.

The northern portion of the district may be roughly described as a section of the long valley between the Nerbudda river and the Sautpooras. Towards the river, though naturally rich in parts, and occasionally bearing marks of perished wealth and greatness, this tract is still desolate and wild. It was once peopled to some extent by civilized races, but now is sparsely occupied by primitive hill tribes. Nearer the base of the Sautpoora range, however, the country forms itself into a large natural basin of fertile land highly cultivated, inhabited by an industrious and manly peasantry, studded with towns and villages, and traversed by the highroad from Bombay to Agra, and by the future railway from Calcutta to Bombay. This is the garden of Nimar.

Topographical description.

South of this again, the Nimar district comprises the Sautpeora range. This range comprises a mountainous region about a hundred miles broad, extending tolerably straight from east to west. In the midst of this tract there rises the Taptee. This river following in the direction of the range of mountains, forces a way through the midst, rending them in twain, and dividing the northern face of the range from the southern. The river at first passes through narrow gorges; these gradually widen into valleys. At first these valleys, though rich in soil, are choked by rank jungle; but as they open out, improve rapidly, until near the city of Boorhanpore, there is a fine open tract enclosed between the northern and southern faces of the Sautpooras, and watered by the Taptee.

Valley of the Taptee.

The northern face of the range which overlooks the garden of Nimar near Khundwa as above described, is crowned by the celebrated hill fortress of Asseergurh. This place is approached by the Kattee Ghattee Pass,—one of the important points on the road between Kandeish and Malwa. The fortress, originally founded by a shepherd chief for the protection of his flocks and herds, has been held in strength by every successive conqueror,—Hindoo, Mahomedan, Mahratta, British: for it dominates over all Nimar, and commands one of the main lines of communication through the Peninsula. From Asseergurh proceeding southwards, the rich plain of the Taptee comes into view, finely marked by the long dark lines which denote the far-stretching groves of mango trees. Boorhanpore is situated near the foot of the Asseergurh hill, on the bluff banks of the Taptee. On the opposite bank, facing Boorhanpore, is Zeinabad, a town which gives its name to the surrounding tract. South of Boorhanpore the rich plain extends for

Asseergurh.

Boorhanpore.

some twenty miles till it is bounded by the hills which form the southern face of the range. These hills gradually slope down towards the Poorna river, which separates Nimar from Berar and from Kandeish, and joins the Taptee, a short distance below Boorhanpore.

**Central
portion of
Nimar.**

The position of Nimar is particularly centrical. It is situated between the great territorial and geographical division of Malwa, on the one hand, and Kandeish and the Deccan on the other. It has always been border-land between great kingdoms. For purposes of war or politics, or trade, main through-routes of communication have always traversed it. During the last century it was literally trodden down and stamped out by inroads innumerable. Under British rule it has formed that portion of the Bengal Presidency which touches that of Bombay.

In 1824 Nimar was described by Sir J. Malcolm thus:—

"The province of Nimar is that part of the valley of the Nerbudda which lies between Hindia east, and Kotra west; and between the Vindhya range north, and the Sautpoora ranges south. Its length is about 130 miles, and its breadth in the centre may be reckoned at 70. The greater part of Nimar is a fertile undulating plain, once perfectly open, flourishing and highly cultivated; but of late years overgrown with low jungle or brushwood. The western portion on both sides of the Nerbudda is generally level and cultivated, but the eastern portion is one mass or cluster of low hills, almost entirely desolate, excepting in the immediate borders of the river. From the desertion or destruction of its population little cultivation exists, and jungle has for the most part taken its place."

This description now requires some modification with reference to the present district of Nimar; for, on the one hand, the western portion of the Nerbudda valley described as open and well cultivated, and comprising the Pergunnahs of Kusrawud and Durgaon, has recently been transferred to the Maharajah Holkar, in exchange for the territory in the Deccan; and on the other hand, a rich tract in the Taptee valley, formerly considered as a part of Kandeish, has been received in exchange from Scindiah, and incorporated with the Nimar district. The desolated tracts also described by Sir J. Malcolm have made rapid progress towards resuscitation under the influence of a long period of peace and good administration.

Population.

The population consists chiefly of Koonbees, Rajpoots, Goojurs, Gonds, Koorkoos, and Bheels; there is, of course, a sprinkling of Brahmins, and of the miscellaneous professional castes, which are found everywhere; and there is a considerable Mahomedan element.

**Statistics by
last census.**

According to the census of 1866, the population of Nimar as the district then stood was 226,969 souls, or 63 to the square mile. The numbers belonging to the chief castes and tribes were:—

Brahmins	...	13,691
Rajpoots	...	17,167
Aheers and Gaolees	...	7,872
Koonbees	...	52,912
Brinjarres (carriers)	...	5,249

Dhers	..	..	..	21,943
Malees (gardeners )	..	..	..	7,260
Bunneahs	..	..	..	9,900
Mahomedans	..	..	..	20,575
Gonds	..	..	..	4,969
Bheels	..	..	..	21,966

Out of the whole population 149,951, or about 72 per cent, were returned as making their living by agriculture. The Koonbees in Nimar as all over the Deccan, are the backbone of the agricultural community. The Malees, with the patient industry peculiar to their race, cultivate opium, sugar and garden stuffs in the Zeinabad country and also in the fertile tracts near the Nerbudda which have in 1867 been transferred to the Indore Durbar.

The only race which is peculiar to Nimar are the Bheels. These people are found chiefly in the block of hills surrounding the fortress of Asseergurh. They were converted to Mahomedanism during the rule of Aurungzebe over the Deccan; but their adherence to this faith is now confined to the performance of the most elementary rites; and their worship is almost entirely—that of their women especially—the old aboriginal fetishism. Until late years they were a troublesome set of robbers, and are still a dissipated and idle race. They are improving however, and a good many of them have become possessed of cattle and have settled down to regular cultivation. Nearly every village in Nimar has a family of Bheels attached to it who are the hereditary village watchmen.

Bheels.

For the last sixty years some of the Bheel notables have been subsidized by successive Governments. In return for the allowance they receive, these men keep the peace among the hills. Their clansmen obey them; and violent crime is almost unknown among the Bheels, who inhabit the mountain fastnesses of Nimar.

No accurate survey of the district has been hitherto completed, but its total area may be estimated in round numbers at 3,500 square miles, of which about 300,000 acres are cultivated. Some 800 square miles of this territory have during the last *month been transferred to the Maharajah Holkar.

Area.

Before the recent transfer of territory to Holkar there were four Tehseels in Nimar, namely Boorhanpore, comprising the Taptee valley south of the Asseer hills; Khundwa, the central tract drained by the Chota Towa river and its affluents; Poonassa, the poorly cultivated tract along the southern bank of the Nerbudda; and Burwye, the open portion of the Nerbudda valley forming the north-west corner of the district. The latter has nearly all been now transferred to His Highness Holkar, and arrangements are still going on for some further exchanges, which will consolidate the boundary of the district in this direction. The portion of the Burwye Tehsel which remains British after the conclusion of these arrangements will probably be incorporated with the Peonasssa Tehsel, so that the number of these sub-divisions will be reduced to three.

Tehsel sub-divisions.

Rivers.

The Nerbudda river, which runs through a fine cultivated vale country down to a point a little eastward of the Nimar border, becomes closed in by low wooded hills just before it enters Nimar. Hence it flows beneath the spurs of the Vindhya, which are clothed with those deep forests where the last and worst of the Pindaree chiefs was hunted to death. Then falling into a rocky region it rushes over the cascades near Poonassa, and thereafter runs deep and silent beneath the overshadowing cliffs, and the stately temples and palaces of the sacred island of Oonkar Mandatta, till it reaches Burwye, famous for iron ore. The river has now for seventy miles been traversing a miserable, though perhaps, interesting region. But past Burwye the Vindhya receding, leave a fine submontane tract: and once more both banks become rich with cultivation. The northern limit of the valley is formed by those promontaries of the Vindhya, where once stood Mandoo,—that great Mahomedan capital which dominated over the surrounding territories. Then the Nerbudda after passing Mundlausur and washing the flights of steps, and the terraces of Muhesur (the residence of the Holkar sovereigns), once more enters the hills, till it becomes more and more enclosed by the opposing and converging ranges of the Vindhya and Sautpooras, and escapes through the narrow passage called the "Deer's leap" before it finally emerges into the coast district. It is navigable throughout its course in Nimar (with a portage at the Poona falls) for boats of four or five tons during ten months of the year.

The Taptee.

The Taptee, rising a few miles from Mooltye in Baitool, traverses the southern part of that district, an open and partially cultivated tract. It then plunges into the gorge of the Sautpoora hills formed on the one side by the Chikulda hills of Berar and on the other by the wild Kaleebeet hills in Hoshungabad. In the valley are the Gangra and Mailghat tracts of Berar and Dharmanjrode of Nimar. It enters the latter at a point about one hundred and twenty miles from its source, and for about thirty miles more is still confined on either side by the Sautpooras in a comparatively narrow valley. A few miles above Boorhanpore, however, the valley begins to open out, and opposite that city has become a fine rich basin about twenty miles in width. Further on it passes from Nimar into the open plains of Kandeish and Goojrah, reaching the sea a little south of Surat, after a course of about four hundred and sixty miles. Within the Nimar district, and above, it is not navigable for craft of any size, its bed being very rocky, and from the rapid fall of level carrying off the drainage of a large tract of hilly country in sudden and tremendous floods, after which it soon subsides into a mere chain of pools. In the upper valley are several basins of exceedingly rich soil, but it is generally covered by a dense growth by tree-jungle, bamboos, and grass, in which swarm tigers, bears, bison, sambur, and spotted deer. The climate is now deadly, though there is abundant evidence that these culturable basins were during the Mahomedan period seats of a thriving cultivation,—Dharmanjrode alone being recorded as containing 32 inhabited villages, yielding a revenue of Rs. 22,000. It now pays about Rs. 250 only! It is now inhabited only by aboriginal Korkoos, who have learnt the use of the plough and raise fine crops of wheat in a few places from the virgin black

soil of the valley. It is visited by Brinjaree carriers, who exchange salt for wheat, and it also exports a great deal of timber and other fresh produce. The only places of any note in this part of the valley are the old forts of Kaledibet, and Jhilpy Amneir; the latter of which was captured by the British at the close of the last Mahratta war.

Of the lesser rivers the Chota Towa, with its tributaries the Seprai, the Abna and the Wonna, flows northward towards the Nerbudda. The course of these streams is across the valley from south to north. The Taptee receives the Golae, the Ootaolee, and the Mona, in its course through the district.

Lesser rivers.

The Great Deccan Road runs from Boorhanpore by Asseergurh across the Sautpooras to the Nerbudda, and thence on over the Vindhya, towards Mhow and Indore. The whole line has been made, metalled, and bridged. It is the principal route for trade from Hindustan and Malwa ; and the traffic on it is considerable. An excellent road from Khundwa now joins the Great Deccan Road at Chegaon, and connects it with the Railway station. At intervals of twelve or fourteen miles along the whole route are good staging-bungalows, and it is well supplied with Dhurumsalals, or rest-houses for travellers.

Roads.

The road towards Hoshungabad for Jubbulpore runs easterly up the valley from Khundwa. There are no staging bungalows along this line, which was never metalled or thoroughly bridged, and which is now to a great extent superseded by the railway in respect to all but local communication. The other roads are fair-weather tracks kept in decent repair. The principal are, a road passing east and west through the northern part of the district by Gheesore Moondee and Poonaissa, to Burwye; another from Khundwa running south to the important town of Borgaon ; and one from Boorhanpore penetrating the upper Taptee valley as far as Gangra in Berar, and much used by Brinjaree carriers, and for the export of forest produce.

Railway.

The Great Indian Peninsula Railway passes right through the Nimar district for a distance of about eighty-six miles, entering it not far west of Boorhanpore, passing underneath Asseergurh, and then by Khundwa, the new head-quarters of the district, on towards Hoshungabad. The stations are :—

Lall Bagh, for Boorhanpore.

Chandnee, for Asseergurh,

Dongurgaon, for Pundhana.

Khundwa, the head-quarters of the district administration.

Bere, for Moondee (not yet opened).

Climate.

Nimar is, on the whole, fortunate in its climate, although the heat is very fierce in the Nerbudda and Taptee valleys during April and May. The central part of the district is not excessively hot in summer, and the rainy season is comparatively pleasant, the clouds being attracted by the vast tracts of forest-covered country on the west. The recorded rain-fall varies in different parts of the district from a minimum of eighteen to a maximum of forty-six inches, the average for the

whole of Nimar being thirty-six inches. The range of the thermometer inside the house, throughout the year, may be stated at from 60° to 94°. Storms of any violence are rare in Nimar.

Forests.

Of the extensive forest lands in this district, the only tract reserved by Government is the Poonassa forest, which stretches over an area of about one hundred and twenty square miles, lying in a strip along the southern bank of the Nerbudda, and contains very fine growth of teak saplings. The south-eastern corner of the district in the Taptee valley is also covered with a promising young forest of teak and other valuable timber trees. It is a continuation of the Kaleebeet forest in Hoshungabad, and exhibits much the same character : its area may be four hundred square miles. Besides these forest tracts proper, there is much land overspread by low jungle; there are also extensive waste tracts, culturable and unculturable.

Timber trees.

The principal timber trees are the teak (*tectona grandis*), saj (*terminalia tomentosa*), and the unjun (*hardwickia binata*). Teak of very large girth does not exist, but saj and unjun of great size may be found in the forest along the Nerbudda. The Nimar forests yield all the usual produce in gums, lac, bark, and the like; but their chief staples are the gum of the Dhowra tree (*conocarpus latifolia*), and bees-wax—articles which are largely exported. Fine wild honey is procured in many places.

Wild animals, game, &c.

Wild animals, from the density and quantity of jungle, are numerous in Nimar. Tigers, leopards, bears, hyenas, wolves, jackals, foxes, monkeys, neelgaaee, sambur and spotted deer are found; and in the wild regions of the Taptee valley the gaur, or bison, (*Bos frontalis*) is common. Owing to the number of cattle and wild animals, which afford them more natural food, the tigers of Nimar are remarkable for almost never becoming man-eaters. Antelope are rare, but smaller game, such as jungle fowl, painted partridge, quail and hares, are plentiful. The Nerbudda and Taptee produce excellent fish,—the rooee, mahaseer, kala-bans, eels. In the rains prawns of a large size are found, but are even then not common.

Geological formation.

Minerals.

The geological formation of Nimar is entirely the Deccan trap, excepting in the immediate neighbourhood of the Nerbudda, where limestone, sandstone, and other more recent strata appear. As might be expected, therefore, the district is destitute of all mineral wealth, except in the extreme north where extremely rich iron ores are found and worked successfully in native fashion in the wild pergunnah of Chandgurh. An attempt to work this ore on more approved principles was made some twenty years back by the establishment of smelting furnaces at Poonassa; but it was found that the distance from which the ore, flux, and fuel, had to be transported across the Nerbudda was fatal to the project as a paying concern. More recently a large and costly smelting establishment, on the most scientific European system, was erected at Burwye on the Nerbudda. There is little doubt that this would have proved a success had it been persevered with; but circumstances led to the abandonment of the experiment by Government, and the works have now been transferred to His Highness Holkar along with pergunnah Burwye.

The soil of Nimar is formed from the decomposition of the underlying trap rock. The process may still be seen going on wherever railway cuttings &c. have laid bare the previously unexposed rock. Partially decomposed trap is called moorum, and is used for metalling roads, but in a short time it becomes wholly decomposed, and is then painfully recognized by travellers as their old friend the black cotton soil ! In the course of ages this soil has got washed down by the floods to the lowest levels along the banks of the numerous streams which intersect the country in every direction, and has been enriched by constant admixture of vegetable mould. Thus we find the quality of the soil gradually deteriorating as we leave the river banks and reach higher ground, till on the ridges we meet with the bare trap which underlies all.

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Soil.

Classes of
soil.

Though of course varying by infinitely gradual shades of quality, for convenience sake the soil of Nimar has been roughly divided by the people (a division also adopted in revenue classification) into four classes :—

1.—Gutta, the rich black mould along rivers, which will yield two crops each year without irrigation.

2.—Gohallee, a black soil found a little higher up which will yield a rubbee crop (wheat &c.) without irrigation.

3.—Mal, a brown soil, stiffer and less deep than the preceding, which will not, in ordinary seasons, carry a rubbee crop unirrigated, but yields the best khureef (rain) crops. When this soil is underlaid by a substratum of moorum to carry off the excess of moisture it forms an admirable soil for the production of cotton, and it is the prevailing soil throughout Nimar.

4.—Kuhrah, the highest and lightest of all, either light brown, or red, often strewn with trap boulders, and mixed with kunkur and gravel; yields only rain crops, and is apt to fail when the rains are light.

The first class produces rice, sawah, and badlee (inferior species of rice) as a rain crop; and wheat, gram, mussoor, &c, in the rubbee harvest. The second yields wheat, gram, and all cold weather crops; also jowar and cotton in rotation.

The third is principally sown with jowar, the staple article of food in the district; also cotton, toor and oilseeds as a rotation; and wheat &c., with irrigation.

* The fourth yields the poorer sorts of jowar and inferior cotton, also bajra, kootkee, tillee, &c.

All these soils are manured, but chiefly the better classes—the poorer being treated to a periodical fallow instead. Little manure is wasted in Nimar.

Manure.

Irrigation is also extensively practised in Nimar, both from wells, for which the closeness of the water-bearing strata to the surface in many places is favourable, and from dams across the smaller streams in

Irrigation.

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the construction of which the Nimarrees are very expert. The irrigated crops are opium, tobacco, ganja, wheat, gram, sugarcane, chillies and garden stuffs. Altogether the Nimar cultivator is both skilful and industrious, understanding well the value of manure, irrigation, and the rotation of crops; and thus he is enabled, notwithstanding a much inferior soil, both to raise heavier crops, and to pay a higher land revenue without burden than his neighbours who occupy the more fertile parts higher up the Nerbudda valley. There is a large number of very fine mango and mohwa trees all over Nimar the produce of which adds not a little to the wealth of the land-holding classes. Recently the Hingunghat staple of cotton has been introduced on an extensive scale, and with complete success, bidding fair to supersede the indigenous article, which of late years has only been used to adulterate better qualities.

**Implements
of agriculture.**

The plough used in Nimar is somewhat larger than that of the Nagpore province, with a larger share to it, and requires good strong cattle to draw it. An implement called a bukkur is used for clearing fields. Driven as the plough is, over fields already turned up, it carries before it the old stubble, brambles, which are thus collected in heaps, and the field dressed. The frame is like that of the plough, having a piece of iron about a foot and a half long, two or three inches broad, about half an inch thick, and slightly curved upwards, fixed across, and so drawn over the loose soil. Another instrument called a teefun is used for sowing. It is a hollow bamboo, fixed a little above, and immediately behind an iron spike, with a cup at the top: this is tied by a rope to the plough, and held lightly and nearly upright in the furrow; seed is supplied by the person holding it, (generally a woman), which falls through the bamboo, as the plough proceeds. Another mode of sowing with a teefun is, that instead of one prong behind the plough, an instrument like a plough, having behind three prongs, with three hollow bamboos, fixed from one central reservoir, immediately behind each of them, is drawn by bullocks over the prepared field, which it turns up in three small furrows, the seed being supplied, as in the former case, by falling through the three channels as the implement proceeds. Behind this another frame like a double bukkur, called a goteea, held very lightly, and drawn by bullocks, performs the office of fielding the furrows, and covering the seed: this latter kind of teefun is used for sowing jowar, toor, Indian corn, wheat, pillee, bajra and rice; the former for cotton, moong, ganja, gram, linseed, at times wheat, and for several other kinds of grain. Another implement, named a koolpah, merely a small bukkur, is brought into use for weeding between the furrows after the crop is in blade, being made of the proper width for the purpose, and saves the trouble and cost of hand weeding. Tobacco, onions, garlic, chillies, and others which may be afterwards transplanted, are sown by hand, the sower scattering the seed in any direction over the field.

**Domestic
animals.**

A very fine breed of cattle is produced in Nimar, especially in its western parts; they are abundant throughout the country, as well as buffaloes, pasturage being so plentiful. There are also sheep, goats, pigs, dogs, cats, fowls, &c.

Originally Nimar formed part of that great Buddhist kingdom which comprised the whole of Central India, and the whole valley of the Nerbudda. The first capital of this kingdom was Muheshwur,—the same place as the modern Muhesuron the Nerbudda. These Buddhist rulers were afterwards subdued by the Brahmins. After that, Muheswur became the capital of the Pramara (now called Puar) kings. Later in history the Asi chiefs of the hills, now called after Asseergurh, were distinguished as fighting for the last Hindoo kings of Delhi against the Mahomedan invaders. One of these chiefs figures in the Hindoo poetry of that period as "The standard bearer"—Tak of Aseor.

But of the ancient Hindoo rulers and priests in Nimar, all records have perished, save the scanty but impressive traces to be recognized in the ruins, the images, the carvings, found frequently in spots now the most desolate, or extracted from caves, or exhumed from the earth. These records, which cannot lie, attest an era of art and civilization. The Hindoos, however, must have succumbed many centuries ago to the Mahomedan invaders. The subjugation of the neighbouring Gond chiefs by the Mahomedans is within the scope of authentic history.

Among the most important sovereignties thus established by the Mahomedans, was that of Mandoo. It does not fall within the province of this article to describe the ruins of that once splendid capital which dominated, not only over Malwa above the Vindhyaas, but also over all the Nimar and Hoshungabad sections of the Nerbudda valley. From the terrace of Mandoo the eye ranges over the whole of the undulating plains of Nimar, threaded by the silver line of the distant Nerbudda, and bounded on the opposite side by the Sautpoora hills.

But, while the northern and central part of Nimar was under the dominion of the Mahomedans, the southern portion within the Sautpoora range, was under the patriarchal rule of the shepherd chief, who dwelt on the summit of the Asseer hill. It afterwards fell under the sway of the Mahomedan princes of Kandeish. The name of the shepherd, Assa Aheer, has been handed down by common fame as the founder of this fortress. The following account of him, his rise, and fall, is extracted from Briggs' translation of the Mahomedan historian Ferishtah:—

"On the summit of a high hill there lived a herdsman who was in reality one of the principal landholders in the country. His ancestors had some seven hundred years previously built a wall round the hill of Asseer in order to protect their cattle from the robbers who infested the mountains. Assa succeeded to his father's property. Being a thrifty person, his herds increased to the number of 5,000 buffaloes, 5,000 cows, 20,000 sheep, and 1,000 brood mares. He had also 2,000 retainers. The farmers of the neighbouring countries whenever they were in distress always found relief in applying to Assa Aheer, or "the herdsman," for so he continued to be called despite his wealth and power. It was for the sake of finding employment for the poor that he had the walls of Asseer levelled, and a fortress built of masonry. This work went by the name of the fort of Assa Aheer, and was afterwards called Asseer." *Brigg's Ferishtah.*—Vol. IV. page 208.

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Shortly afterwards, however, Assa entered into relations with Mullick Nusseer Furokhee, the Mahomedan chief of the neighbouring Province of Kandeish. This Mullick Nusseer, under pretence of sheltering the ladies of his family under the hospitable protection of Asseergurh, treacherously possessed himself of the fortress, and put Assa and his people to the sword. Ferishtah, however, discerns the judgment of Providence upon the heirs of this Mahomedan Prince, for he relates that :—

"The property of Assa was never enjoyed by the Furokhee family, and all the money and jewels taken from Assa on this occasion fell into the hands of Akbar the Great, when he took the fortress of Asseer, two centuries afterwards."

The Furokhee kings of Boorhanpore.

Mullick Nusseer becoming master of Asseer, employed himself according to Ferishtah, in strengthening its fortifications. The mixture of Hindoo and Mahomedan structures in this fort is indeed observable by the visitor to this day. Mullick Nusseer then summoned Zeinooddeen, the family priest, at whose request he built first Zeinabad on the left bank of the Taptee calling it after the priest's name, and then Boorhanpore on the opposite bank, calling it after Boorhanodeen, another saint, and a friend of Zeinooddeen. The Furokhee chiefs embellished Boorhanpore with many public works. They erected mosques of a severe but grand style of architecture, they supplied the city with water by means of fine aqueducts, they constructed weirs and artificial cascades, and masonry channels.

Such are the apparently authentic particulars of the founding of Asseergurh and Boorhanpore, gathered by Ferishtah on his visit to these places, more than 250 years ago.

Nimar subdued by the Moghul Emperor.

Towards the close of his victorious reign Akbar the Great subdued the kingdoms both of Mandoo and Boorhanpore, having taken Asseergurh by siege in 1600, A. D.; and thus the whole of Nimar was incorporated in the Moghul Empire. It belonged to the "Soobah," or Province of Kandeish. It was then formed into a division, or "Sircar," of which the head-quarters were fixed at Beejagurh, a fortress, in the Sautpoora hills. Thus it remained until the Mahratta power rose upon the ruins of the Moghul Empire. Both Asseergurh and Boorhanpore played a distinguished part in the wars of the Moghul Empire. Boorhanpore especially was the scene of encampments, of sieges, of sackings, of battles, in the reign of Emperor Aurungzebe and his successors.

Prosperity of Nimar during the Mahomedan period.

It is probable that during the Mahomedan period Nimar reached the highest degree of prosperity it has ever known,—a prosperity much exceeding that which it enjoys now, even after forty years of British rule succeeding the general pacification of 1818. Though the territory was diversified by hills, rocks and forests in many directions, still the plains and valleys were doubtless well cultivated. There was a government, which though of foreign extraction, was yet strong and considerate. The towns were flourishing; there was a well-to-do agricultural population; there were large military and other establishments. Emperors, Governors, and armies passed this way. There were good markets for agricultural produce, there were nobles and

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chiefs with their retinues to give encouragement to trade. The rail-stages were thronged with traffic to and fro between the capitals of Malwa to the north, and the Deccan to the south. The villages had strong and industrious communities; there was much artificial irrigation. In short, the face of the country was sprinkled over with public buildings or works of improvement, with caravanserais, with rest-houses and wells, with aqueducts, with tanks and reservoirs.

We shall now see to what a stage of misery these fair regions were brought by revolutions, and by internecine dissensions among chiefs between the years 1700 and 1817.

During the eighteenth century Nimar fell into the hands of the Mahratta chiefs, Holkar and Scindiah. Malcolm relates that in 1732 Mulhar Rao (the founder of the house of Holkar) obtained possession of several places in Nimar, of which Muhesur was the principal. Thereafter Mulhar Rao acquired most of those tracts which lay near the Nerbudda, and also the central portion of Nimar. The southern portion of Nimar, including Boorhanpore and Asseergurh, fell into the hands of Madhajee Scindia, and his successor, Dowlut Rao.

The Mahratta period.

Mulhar Rao.
Holkar.Madhajee
Scindiah.

Although the Mahrattas did not in the first instance desire to subvert the institutions of the Province, or to inflict any unnecessary injury on the people; yet their system of conquest inevitably tended to impoverish the conquered. In reference to Madhajee Scindiah's first occupation of this very part of the country Malcolm remarks:—

"It was a circle of plunder: as one country was exhausted the army had to march with their numbers increased by those whose condition their success had made desperate, to ravage another. Then the Bheels from their mountains and the Rajpoots from their fortified villages retaliated on the Mahrattas, by laying waste their lands, the wrongs they had suffered.—*Malcolm*,—Vol. I., page 136.

It is true that afterwards Madhajee organized a regular force to maintain public order, and showed some disposition to establish a regular government. It is also true that Mulhar Rao governed his territories considerately, and that for many years most parts of Nimar enjoyed the benefits and the repose which resulted in the establishment, for a time, of good government by Ahulya Baee, the well known Princess of the House of Holkar. The tradition of her public virtues has survived, and is still in the mouths of all well-informed natives of Nimar. But after her the dissensions between Scindiah and Holkar plunged this part of the country into trouble. It would be tedious to enumerate the instances in which Juswunt Rao Holker ravaged and laid waste the territories of Scindiah in this quarter. For some years Juswunt Rao (whose fierce deeds and awful end are so well known to history) proved himself the scourge of Nimar. These oppressions were continued after the death of Juswunt Rao, under the rule of Toolsee Baee.

Ahulya Baee.

Juswunt Rao
Holkar.

In the injuries inflicted on Nimar during the Mahratta period, the executive agents were frequently the Pindarees. As the Mahrattas tottered towards their fall, the Pindarees became bolder and stronger:

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these hordes of Pindarees robbers did indeed carry their depredations to distant parts of India in all directions. But the worst of all their leaders, Cheetoo Khan, established himself in the Nimar country, that is, in the tract between the north bank of the Nerbudda and the base of the Vindhya mountains. There he had his standard, his camp, his lands, and his last retreat in extremity. Though it cannot be said that these Pindarees had any home, yet during the worst period of their career they had their head-quarters in the neighbourhood. In 1812 Sir R. Jenkins, reporting to the British Government, the general strength of the Pindarees, describes them to be then known as belonging to two parties—the Holkar Shahee, and the Scindiah Shahee, that is, the parties infesting the territories of Holkar and Scindiah, respectively. On the whole, it may be said that at various times Nimar was rifled and ransacked from end to end by these people, and that of all the Provinces in different parts of India which they devasted, none suffered more permanent injury at their hands than Nimar.

Cheetoo Pindaree.

But the final day of retribution came for the Pindarees when the detachments of British troops entered Nimar from all directions in 1817, and converged on the last retreat of Cheetoo. It was in the Eirwas forests, on the northern boundary of Nimar, that Cheetoo met that tragic fate so well known to history. It was there that, alone, without even one follower, he was tracked by the mark of his horse's hoofs; it was there his pursuers found his mangled remains in the den of a tiger.

After the extirpation of the Pindarees in 1816 Nimar had rest. By that time, however, it must have become nearly exhausted. The following passages bearing on Nimar may be extracted from Malcolm's description of Central India in 1817.—(Vol. II.)

Condition of Nimar in 1817.

"Near the Nerbudda hundreds of villages might be seen roofless." * * *

"Some parts were usurped by wild beasts, and these literally fought with the returning inhabitants for their fields."

* * *

"Many districts might be mentioned that are literally recovered from a complete waste."

Manpoor had not paid revenue for sixty years, and in 1817 had not one inhabitant. Two tracts once flourishing and since restored, Kanapore and Burriah (one of which now has a first-rate reservoir for irrigation), were in 1817 quite desolate; there being one inhabited village in Kanapore, and none at all in Burriah. Kusrawud, another once flourishing tract was more than half depopulated. In the south of Nimar Malcolm states that large villages were reduced to four or five families. After the reduction of the Pindarees, plunderers of the Gond and Bhel tribes continued the depredations for some time. Colonel Smith, the first British Officer who took charge of Nimar in 1818, describes it as "one continued scene of desolation and ruin, all traces of former cultivation

have ceased to be perceptible." Many years afterwards, Captain French after much enquiry, wrote in 1846 :—

" Nothing could be more lamentable than the condition of Nimar at the conclusion of the Mahratta and Pindaree wars. It had been ravaged in all directions, and we found it nearly a depopulated desert."

The tracts now forming the British district of Nimar have come under British administration at different times. Those lying on the banks of the Nerbudda became British territory in 1818. In 1823-24 the greater part of Scindiah's Nimar came under British management, though still called Scindiah's Nimar. This included Khundwa, the capital of Nimar, and the country below Asseergurh to the banks of the Taptee. But the city of Boorhanpore, and the tract of Zeinabad across the Taptee, remained with Scindiah. Asseergurh surrendered in 1819 to General Doveton. As late as 1851, a medal was given to the survivors of those who took part in the siege. Recently in 1860-61 the sovereignty of the British Government in Scindiah's Nimar (heretofore under British management) was confirmed, and Boorhanpore and Zeinabad were likewise ceded to the British Government. These transactions arose out of various territorial arrangements with the Maharajah Scindiah.

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Portions
of Nimar
come under
British rule.

On the first introduction of British rule, cautious measures for the revival of prosperity were adopted. The extreme depression of the revenue has already been mentioned. But the revenue rapidly recovered itself. In the first year of British rule, 1818, A.D. the revenue in the British tracts stood at only Rs. 17,581. By 1824 it had risen to Rs. 86,361. The tracts taken over from Scindiah yielded in 1823-24 only Rs. 64,225. By the year 1828-29 they were yielding Rs. 1,61,224. The long protracted troubles had disturbed all landed tenures. The dues of the petty agricultural chiefs (Mundloees) were respected; and these men, or their descendants, are still maintaining their position. Similar consideration was shown to the patels or village headmen. The villages were leased out generally to the patels on the payment of a fixed revenue, but sometimes to strangers. In some tracts the revenue authorities assumed the management of the villages, and dealt direct with the cultivators. The actual property in land, was however held to be inherent in the State. Attempts were made in those days to measure the lands, but the people were timid and suspicious of the intentions of Government (as was perhaps not unnatural after their long oppressions), and this operation was abandoned. Though there may have been occasionally trouble at first, yet the police administration was on the whole vigorous and repressive. The extraordinary and successful efforts of Captain, afterwards General Sir James Outram in the Bheel country in Kandeish, and in the hills to the west of Nimar did much to contribute to the pacification of Nimar itself. Outram's name is still gratefully remembered there. The manner in which the wild tribes were subdued; not so much by external power as by the moral force of the European character, the skill, resolution, and patience displayed for that ~~great~~^{object}—are now matters of history, and hardly fall within the scope of this article. For some time a part of the Bheel agency was

NIMAR.

Administration up to 1845.

established at Mundlaisur ; and up to the present time an Assistant Bheel Agent resided there. But though at the outset the restoration of prosperity was rapid, yet there does not seem to have been any progressive advance beyond a certain point. In some respect the territory seems somewhat to have retrograded after the year 1830. Drought and pestilence visited the district in 1833-34 and again in 1844-45. In 1844-45 the revenue had fallen to 48,013 rupees for British Nimar, and to Rs. 109,884 for the penguinahs taken over from Scindiah. Many families, who, on the first re-establishment of peace flocked to Nimar, as the safest place, from neighbouring territories, returned to their homes as the pacification became general everywhere. The British assessments in Nimar, though doubtless intended to be liberal, appear to have been afterwards felt by the people as too high. The leaseholders at times were unwilling, to renew their leases, and frequently cultivators threw up their lands. In 1842 Sir C. Wade, (then Resident at Indore) declared that Nimar had not improved as it ought : and in 1845 the Court of Directors drew attention to the depressed state of the country. Up to 1845 no special steps seem to have been taken to improve the district, either by increasing the means of irrigation, or by opening out the roads.

But since 1845, up to the present time, persevering and consistent efforts have been made by the British authorities to improve Nimar in every way, both materially and morally.

Decision of revenue affairs in 1847.

In 1847 the then Lieutenant-Governor of the North-West Provinces, Mr. Thomason, visited Mundlaisur (then the civil head-quarters of Nimar), and in June of that year issued instructions, which constitute the charter of the creation of landed property and of the limitation of the Government demand in that district.

The land revenue of the greater portion of the district was settled for a term of twenty years. Many new wells were excavated in the cultivated tracts, the old tanks were repaired or reconstructed, and water-channels opened out: some of these, such as the lake near Kanapore, are really fine works.

Public works of all kinds were constructed all over the Province.

Schools and Dispensaries.

Schools, English and Vernacular, were founded at the principal places : and also Vernacular schools in some of the villages. Several Dispensaries were established, and largely attended by the sick.

The incursions of Bheels were repelled. Dacoity was much checked. Public order was generally preserved during the troubled period of 1857.

An efficient body of horse police was organized. Buildings for the foot police along the main lines of road were constructed. The fiscal establishments were fairly organized.

Administration.

The Nimar territory has now been constituted a district or Zillah ; being one of the districts of which the Central Provinces are composed. It has been incorporated in the Nerbudda Commissionership, which

is one out of the four divisions into which the districts of these Provinces are grouped. The head-quarters of the Nerbudda Division are fixed temporarily at Baitool. But they are to be ultimately fixed at Hoshungabad. Baitool and Hoshungabad are equally distant from Nimar, both places being within a hundred and thirty miles of it. When the railway shall be opened there will be communication by rail through from Nimar to Hoshungabad. Further, Nimar is thus placed under the same appellate jurisdiction as those portions of the Nerbudda valley and the Sautpoora hills to which it is immediately adjacent.

The civil head-quarters of Nimar had heretofore been at Mundlaisur on the Nerbudda. This arrangement was made many years ago, when the circumstances of the territory were different. Since then there have been changes, territorial and other : and now Mundlaisur is not suited to be the civil station. It is distant from the finest part of the district, and is therefore inconvenient to an important section of the population. It is off the main line of through communication. For some time the local authorities had contemplated to remove the station to Khundwa,—the natural capital and centre of Nimar, and a situation much approved by the medical officers; and also on the main line of the railway. The change has now been carried out, and the Deputy Commissioner of Nimar is now residing at Khundwa.

The district is divided into four *sub-divisions, each of which is in charge of a Tehsildar, or sub-collector of revenue, who also usually is vested with petty civil and criminal jurisdiction within his circle.

There are police station-houses at each of the four sub-divisions noted.

There are also several Police outposts; and all the larger towns maintain their own watch and ward.

Of schools there are now (1866-67) eighty-nine existing in the district, classified as follows:—

Anglo-Vernacular Schools	...	...	...	2
Vernacular do.	..	..	..	3
Village do.	..	..	..	25
Girls de.	..	..	..	4
Normal do.	..	..	..	1
Grant-in-aid do.	..	..	..	54

And there are already four dispensaries, maintained partly by grants from the State, and partly by local subscriptions—at Khundwa, Boorhanpore (two), Burwye.

Eight Post offices have been established in the district, besides the imperial offices at Khundwa and Boorhanpore.

The land revenue of Nimar is Rs. 2,08,814, but the new settlement is not yet completed.

The revenue under this head under the farming system amounted to Rs. 77,000, after excluding a few pergannahs in the north-west corner of the district bordering on Holkar's territories. The Central distillery system of raising the liquor excise has just been introduced.

The revenue under this head is Rs. 9,588. It is raised by farming out the right to sell by retail, opium, bhang, ganja, &c.

NIMAR.
Jurisdiction.

Civil head-quarters.

Police Station-houses and out posts.

Schools.

Dispensaries.

Post offices.

Land revenue.

Abkaree.

Opium and Drugs.

* Khundwa, Burwye, Boorhanpore, and Poonassa.

The principal fairs in this district are those of Oonkar Mandatta, Toolja, Bhowanee, and Singajee.

A considerable number of cattle and sheep is sold : other articles brought for sale are English piece goods, country cloth of every sort, brass and copper vessels, and agricultural produce.

Asseergurh, or the fort of Assa Aheer, a strong fortress situated on an isolated hill in the Sautpoora range ; height 850 feet from the base, and nearly 2,000 feet above the sea level, it is twenty-nine and half miles south-west from Khundwa, head-quarters of the Nimar district, it is situated in latitude $21^{\circ} 26'$ and longitude $76^{\circ} 20'$.

The following description is given of the fortress by Colonel Blacker, in his history of the Mahratta campaigns of 1817 to 1819, which holds good to the present day :—

The upper fort in its greatest length from west to east, is about eleven hundred yards, and its extreme breadth from north to south, about six hundred ; but owing to the irregularity of its shape, the area will not be found more than three hundred thousand square yards (60 acres). It crowns the top of a detached hill, seven hundred and fifty feet in height ; and round the foot of the wall enclosing the area is a bluff precipice from eighty to one hundred and twenty feet in perpendicular depth. So well scarped as to leave no avenues of ascent except at two places. To fortify these has therefore been the principal care in constructing the upper fort, for the wall which skirts the precipices is no more than a low curtain, except where the guns are placed in battery. This is one of the few hill forts possessing an abundant supply of water which is not commanded within common range, but it fully participates in the common disadvantage attending similar places of strength, by affording cover in every direction to the approaches of an enemy through the numerous ravines by which its inferior ramifications are separated. In one of these which terminates within the upper fort, is the northern avenue, where the hill is highest ; and to bar the access to the place at that point, an outer rampart, containing four casements with embrasures, eighteen feet high, as many thick, and one hundred and ninety feet long, crosses it from one part of the interior wall to another, where a re-entering angle is formed by the works. A sally-port of extraordinary construction descends through the rock at the south-eastern extremity, and is easily blocked on necessity, by dropping down materials at certain stages which are open to the top.

The principal avenue of the fort is on the south-west side, where there is consequently a double line of works above ; the lower of which, twenty-five feet in height runs along the foot of the bluff precipice and the entrance, passes through five gateways, by a steep ascent of stone steps. The masonry here is uncommonly fine, as the natural impediments are, on this side, least difficult, and on this account a third line of works called the lower fort, embraces an inferior branch of the hill immediately above the pettah. The wall is about thirty feet in height with towers, and at its northern and southern extremities it ascends to connect itself with the upper works. The pettah, which is by no means

NIMAR.

Fairs.
Principal
towns and
remarkable
places.

Asseergurh.

Description
of the fortress
of Asseergurh.

~~WILLIS.~~ large, has a partial wall on the southern side, where there is a gate, but in other quarters it is open and surrounded by ravines and deep hollows extending far in every direction.

The most noteworthy particulars in the history of this fortress are given in the following extract from a paper by Lieutenant J. Forsyth, Bengal Army :—

"No reliance can be placed on the traditions or legends regarding Asseergurh before the period of authentic history; but it is probable that the hill was first occupied for defensive purposes when the struggle commenced between the Hindoo invaders of the Deccan, and its aboriginal inhabitants. At all events there can be little doubt that the present fort is of comparatively modern construction, belonging, in fact, to the Mahomedan period. The architecture of the walls is exactly similar to that of the walls of the city of Boorhanpore, and they are probably of about the same date. The bastions and gate defences, moreover, evidently belong to a period when the use of fire-arms, and even of heavy artillery, had been brought to considerable perfection."

"According to the best Mahomedan historians, Asseergurh was captured from Assa Aheer, by Nusseer Khan, the second sovereign of the Furokee dynasty, who ruled from Boorhanpore over the kingdom of Kandeish from 1399 to 1437, A. D. In the Mujmooa Julalee its capture is said to have been effected by the following stratagem. Assa Aheer, having built a stone and mud "Ghurree" on the hill successfully resisted for some time the efforts made by the Furokee kings to master his country, till Nusseer Khan entered into negotiations with him; and, pretending to be about to make war on his brother Malik Iftikar, asked Assa Aheer to allow his family to seek refuge in the Ghuree. Assa having consented, a number of doolies, supposed to contain his family, were sent to the fort by Nusseer Khan; but on Assa coming to the gate to receive him, he was seized by the armed occupants of the doolies, and put to death. The fort was then taken, and the present walls built."

These are probably the earliest accounts having any pretension to reliability which are to be had regarding Asseergurh.

The fort appears to have been held from this time, until A. D. 1600 by the Furokee kings. In 1600 however, the Emperor Akbar Shah re-subdued the whole of these territories, and took prisoner the last of the Furokee sovereigns, Bahadoor Shah, in the fort of Asseergurh, to which he had retired with 40,000 men. The result of this immense force being penned inside was a famine, in consequence of which the place was surrendered without a blow. Nevertheless the victor caused a vain glorious inscription to be cut in Persian on the rock near the south-west gate; of which I give a literal translation :—⁽¹⁾

"The fort of Asseer, high as the vault of heaven, and which since it was made has never been captured by any one, was taken by the hand of the Emperor Khalil-oola-Julaloodeen Mahomed Akbar, in the forty-fifth year of his reign. The victory of Asseer was gained by the help of God. The king of seven realms, the conqueror of the world."

"The Emperor Akbar Shah's god has given him a mighty victory ; and the year of its date is 1,009 H. (A. D. 1,600). The writer of this is Mahomed Mahsoon."

After this the fort appears to have remained quietly in the possession of the Delhi Emperors up to the invasion of their kingdom by the Mahrattas. Another inscription near the large tank in the fort commemorates the building of the great mosque in the reign of the Emperor Shah Jehan. This mosque has two elegant minars, but no cupolas,—a feature peculiar to mosques in this part of the country. Another, and the only remaining inscription in the fort, is near the first mentioned one, at the south-west gate. It records the transfer (apparently peaceful) of the place to the power of Aurungzebe, after deposing his father and murdering his elder brother. The following is a translation of this inscription :—

"The Prince Aurungzebe, protector of religion, may he remain mighty for ever, by the mercy of God, ascended the throne of the Emperor Akbar. He acquired the place of his father by the force of his sword. The point of my pen is sharp to write the date; at once is written the name of the Emperor Kishwurgir, conqueror of countries." And according to the Persian method of recording dates, the value of the letters in the two words "Badshah Kishwurgir" make up. 1069 H.—1658 A. D.

"This worthless slave Ahmud Nujun (the second) took (? charge of) this fort."

"Another record of the reign of Aurungzebe is to be found in an inscription on the large gun on the south-west bastion. This piece is a magnificent specimen of native gun-casting, and was made at Boorhan-pore in the year 1658. It is made of a kind of gun metal, containing a very large proportion of copper (probably the "husht dath," which was composed of eight metals, including silver and gold). The casting has been made on a hollow core of iron welded in ribbands, which now forms the bore of the piece. Its principal dimensions are the following :—

			Feet.	Inches.
Length, muzzle to breech	..	..	12	9
Do. do. trunnion	..	..	7	3
Girth at breech	..	..	8	2½
Do. in front of trunnion	..	..	6	6
Do. at muzzle	..	..	5	7
Diameter of bore	..	..	0	8½

"The calibre is therefore somewhat larger, while the length is considerably greater than those of the 68-pounders of the British service. Its weight cannot be less than 7 tons.

The gun is elaborately ornamented in relief, with Persian inscriptions and scroll-work commencing at the muzzle; and the inscriptions run as follows:—

1. "If even a blind man fire me, the world will be upset. I am like the smouldering flame of grief in a man's heart" (ready to break forth, I suppose.)

2. The next inscription is Aurungzebe's seal with his full title, "Ab-oob-Muzaffer Mohyoodeen, Mahomed Aurungzebe Shah Ghazee."

3. "Made at Boorhanpore in the year 1074 H.—1663 A. D.

4. "The gun 'Fuluk Hybut' (the terror of heaven)."

5. "In the rule (umul) of Mahomed Hosein Arab" (the Kiladar or Soobah perhaps.)

6. "A ball like a pomegranate, of 12 seers, Shahjehanee weight."

It is to be noted that an iron shot fitted to the bore would ~~way~~ 70 lbs. or more, so that the shot used with this gun must have been either hollow, or made of some light stone, for the seer, if it has varied at all, has probably increased in weight since those days.

This magnificent old gun is lying uncared for on the ground in the south-west bastion. Would it not be worth while to remount it, and keep it in order? and could not a few pounds of powder be spared to let us hear the deep tone of Fuluk Hybut peacefully announcing to the length and breadth of Nimar that it is 12 o'clock?

While on the subject of guns, I may state that a breech-loading wall-piece has lately been taken from Asseergurh to be sent, I believe, to the Nagpore Museum. The breech-loading apparatus is lost; but it seems to have been on the simple plan so common in ancient breech-loading arms of all countries, namely, a detachable chamber introduced into a slit in the side of the gun, and kept there with a wedge or bolt.

There appears to be no record of the exact date when Asseergurh fell into the hands of the Mahrattas. For these marauders never cut inscriptions, and wrote no histories, while the Mahomedan historians are chary of details after their nation began to get worsted by the robber hordes of the Deccan. It was, however, probably about the year 1731, when the Peishwa Bajee Rao first permanently laid hold of Nimar and Malwa. It subsequently passed into the possession of Madhajee Scindiah, when that chief became the independent sovereign of Malwa. In A. D. 1808, it was taken with little resistance from Dowlut Rao Scindiah by a detachment of General Wellesley's army shortly after the battle of Assaye, but on peace being concluded with the Mahrattas in the same year, was again made over to Scindiah. It was a second time besieged by the British in A. D. 1819, having become the refuge of Appa Sahib, who had been driven from his retreat in the Puschnurh hills, and of the famous Pindaree chief, Chestoo. It was taken after an obstinate struggle of 20 days, and with a heavy loss of officers and men. This assault was probably the only real fight ever seen by the fort of Asseergurh. After this, when the neighbour-

ing districts were again given back to Scindiah, the fort, and a small waste tract surrounding it, known as Tappa Sutrabustee, were retained as British property. In 1860, however, the whole of the Nimar district was obtained by exchange from the Maharajah Scindiah. The fort is now garrisoned by a wing of a Regiment of Bombay Native infantry and two companies of Europeans—without artillery. Being higher than the surrounding plains, its climate is somewhat cooler; but as a place to live in, it is somewhat confined.

There is, however, a fine view of a boundless tract of jungle, with the Taptee gleaming in the distance. The place will soon be accessible I hope by a good road from the railway station of Chandnee, from which it is only eight miles distant.

The foregoing sketch of the history of Asseergurh may be of some interest. It is but a sketch, and could be amplified into something like a history of India; for the old place, from its position on the highway between Hindooostan and the Deccan, must have witnessed the march of most of the armies to and fro, beneath its walls, during the five centuries when the great Mahomedan and Hindoo powers were striving for the Empire of India; but, so far as can be now ascertained, the events I have noticed are the leading ones in what may be called the private history of Asseergurh.

Bahadurpore, from Khundwa forty-five miles; four miles, to the west of Boorhanpore, contains three hundred houses, population 1,500. Trade wire-drawing in connection with Boorhanpore. A dak bungalow is here.

Bahadurpore.

One Hindoo school, Government. A Mahomedan saint's tomb. Water supplied by an aqueduct similar to that of Boorhanpore.

Bahadurpore, alleged to have been formerly a large city founded by Bahadur Khan, the last of the Furokhee kings, in the year 1597 A. D., now a small and insignificant village. A chowkee for collection of salt duty exists.

Bamgurh, eight miles east of Khundwa; population 8,800; houses 500.

Bamgurh.

Hindoo school. The town was plundered by Eshwunt Rao, 60 years ago, (Sumbut 1862) by the aid of Pindarees.

Berria is in the Tehsilee of Burwy; is distant from Khundwa thirty-eight miles in a north-westerly direction, and is on the road from the latter place to Mundlaisur. It is only a small place, the population not being more than about 1,200. The south bank of the Nerbudda is distant eight miles. Although it is an old town it has no special history, nor is it celebrated for any particular manufactures. Distant from the town a mile is a very large tank about four miles in circumference. At Berria is a station-house of the Nimar police, and a Government Vernacular school. This tank was made by Colonel French Political Agent, Nimar, in the year 1846. It is used for irrigation, which is carried on by means of sluices, conduits, in a scientific manner and effects, some two hundred acres of

Berria.

The Lachora artificial lake.

Boorhanpore.

Latitude $21^{\circ}18'$ and longitude $76^{\circ}20'$, is distant forty-one miles south by west from Khundwa—the head-quarters of the district of Nimar; and contains 8,000 masonry houses, hotels excluded. Population 35,500. It is situated on the river Taptee, on the north bank of which it extends for two and three-quarter miles. It is surrounded by a brick wall in good state of preservation, except towards the river face. The city has nine principal gates or entrances in the circumscribing wall, besides a number of small wickets. The total circumference is eight English miles.

Boorhanpore was founded in 820 A. H. (equivalent to 1404 A. D.) by Mullick Nuzzeer, entitled Nuzzeer Khan Furokhee, second king of Kandeish. The legend, as given by the Mahomedan historian Ferishtah is as follows:—"Nuzzeer Khan having succeeded in taking the fort of Asseer, Sheikh Zeinoodeen, the tutelary saint of the family, went towards Kandeish to congratulate him. The former, with all his family, marched to meet the holy personage, and encamped on the western bank of the Taptee. Sheikh Zeinoodeen arrived with a number of his disciples and pitched their tents on the eastern bank. Mullick Nuzzeer begged the Sheikh to accept an estate in Kandeish. The Sheikh answered that Dervishes had no occasion for estates, but begged of Mullick Nuzzeer to build a town on the eastern bank of the river, and call it after himself, Zeinabad, and a city on the western bank to be called Boorhanpore, in honor of the famous Sheikh Boorhan-ood-deen of Dowlatabad. Both towns were built, and Boorhanpore afterwards became the capital of the Furokhee dynasty."

In the reign of Adil Khan Furokhee I. (the first) the fifth king of the Furokhee dynasty, Boorhanpore attained great magnificence. This prince built the fort or Badshah killa, the old Elgah, and many other places now in ruins.

Rajah Ally Khan Furokhee, the twelfth king of the dynasty, ascended the throne in 984 A. H., or 1568 A. D.; he did much to improve the city; he built the Jumma musjid, now existing in perfect preservation; he constructed the system of water-works which supply the city to the present day with pure and wholesome water.

The last king of the independent dynasty of Kandeish was Bahadur Khan Furokhee. This prince was compelled to capitulate by Akbar, the Delhi Emperor, in 1008 A. H. (equivalent to 1592 A. D.). The Kandeish kingdom was then absorbed into the Delhi Empire. Bahadur Khan built the town of Bahadurpore, four miles to the west of Boorhanpore. Thus Boorhanpore was the capital of an independent dynasty which ruled from the year 772 A. H. (equivalent to 1356 A. D.) to 1008 A. H. (equivalent to 1592 A. D.), in all 236 years.

In the "Ayeen Akbari" it is described as a large city with many gardens, in some of which is found sandal wood; inhabited by people of all nations, and abounding with handicraftsmen. In the summer the town is covered with dust, and during the rains the streets are full of mud and stones.

Taverniere passed through Boorhanpore (or as he wrote it, Brampour) in 1641, and again in 1658, on his journeys between Agra and Surat.

This is how he writes of it in 1658:—"It is a great city, very much ruined, the houses being for the most part thatched with straw. There is also a great castle in the midst of the city, where the Governor lives. The government of this province is a very considerable command, only conferred upon the son and uncle of the king. There is a great trade in this city, and as well in Brampour as over all the province; there is made a prodigious quantity of calicuts, very clear and white, which are transported into Persia, Turkey and Muscovia, Poland, Arabia, to Grand Cairo, and other places. There are some which are painted with several colors, with flowers, of which the women make veils and scarfs: the same calicuts serve for coverlets of beds and for handkerchiefs. There is another sort of linen which they never dye, with a stripe or two of gold or silver quite through the piece, and at each end from the breadth one inch to twelve or fifteen,—in some more, in some less; they fix a tissue of gold, silver, and silk intermixed with flowers, whereof there is no wrong-side, both sides being as fair the one as the other. If these pieces, which they carry into Poland, where they have a vast utterance, want at each end three or four inches at the least of gold or silver; or if that gold or silver become tarnished in being carried by sea from Surat to Oormus, and from Trebizan to Mangala, or any other parts upon the Black Sea, the merchant shall have much ado to put them off without great loss. He must take care that his goods be packed up in good bales, that no wet may get in, which for so long a voyage requires great care and trouble. Some of these linens are made purposely for swath-bands or sashes, and those pieces are called Orris. They contain from fifteen to twenty ells; and cost from a hundred to a hundred and fifty rupees, the least not being under ten or twelve ells. Those that are not above two ells long are worn by the ladies of quality for veils and scarfs of which there is a vast quantity vended in Persia and Turkey. They make at Brampour also other sorts of cotton linen, for indeed there is no province in all the Indies which more abounds in cotton."

Boorhanpore remained an integral part of the Delhi Empire until the rise of the Mahratta power. It was plundered in 1685 A. D. by Sumbhajees' troops under Humbeer Rao: and Kandeish, of which it was the capital, first paid tribute to the Mahrattas in 1670; the concession being exacted by Pertab Rao, Goojur, on the part of Sewajee. Boorhanpore played an important part in the wars of the Empire, especially during the reign of Aurungzebe. In 1738, or a little earlier, the province of Nimar with Boorhanpore was wrested from the Moghul Empire by Balajee, the Peishwa, on whose death Modhajee Scindiah took possession of all this country.

In 1803 A. D. the army under General Wellesley took Boorhanpore and Assangurh; but by the treaty of Surjee Anjungaon, concluded in February 1804, these places were restored to Scindiah.

In 1808-09 Boorhanpore and the surrounding mehals were ceded by Scindiah in consequence of some territorial arrangement, since when the city of Boorhanpore and pergunnah of Zeinabad became part of

the Nimar district. The city is at present declining, as is testified by the ruined state of the large, and once handsome houses. A large proportion of the population subsist by manufacturing the cloths for which it is famous. But the decline of Native Courts has reduced the demand for the finer qualities of the Boorhanpore work, and there is no other staple manufacture.

Trade.

Gold and silver wire-drawing, silk and cotton-weaving, into which the wire is introduced, manufacture of puggeries, mundils, dooputtas, sarees, keenarees, are the chief trades. In silk and cotton, with kulla-button work, the cloths are of great variety, colour, and richness. They are in great request in nearly every part of Western India. Glass-blowing, chiefly made into ornaments; wood-carving, wall-painting, form other kinds of industry.

**Town duties
or Octroi.**

The net amount of town duties for 1865-66 was 49,000 rupees. The Octroi was sold by auction.

**Government
offices.**

Assistant Commissioner's Office, Tehseeldaree, District Police Station, Town Station, Lock-up, and Post Office.

Schools.

One English school, lately established, attended by sixty scholars.

One Hindoo school, attended by about eighty scholars.

Seven Goozeratee schools, attended by five hundred scholars.

Three Mahratta schools, attended by one hundred scholars.

Eight Urdu schools, attended by about eighty scholars.

**Remarkable
buildings.**

Jooma musjid; Beebee musjid; Ahookhana, or summer-house in a deer park, on the south side of the Taptee. The Badshah Killa, or fort, of which the buildings at present in best preservation were built by the Emperor Shah Jehan of Delhi; the whole pile is, however, now almost a ruin.

**Architectural
remains.**

The remains of the palace, or Badshah Killa, and numerous musjids, serais; the tomb of the Furokhee king, Adil Khan; the tomb of Shah Nurooz Khan, and that of Dilawur Khan Putan—are all objects of interest, besides numerous tombs of more or less handsome workmanship, scattered in every direction round the city.

Boorhanpore is remarkable for the extensive system of works by which the city is supplied with water. The fact of the southern face of the Sautpoora range to the north of the city is tapped by a series of wells, each on a lower level than the one above it. The wells are connected by a tunnel through which the accumulated water of the wells run until they approach the surface of the ground.

The water is then conducted into the city by earthenware pipes, the pressure being relieved at short intervals by hollow pillars called Bumbas, into which the water mounts to its natural level. In the city the water is distributed into reception tanks, from which the inhabitants draw their supply. These works are about to be repaired, and put in thorough order.

The city is remarkable as being one of the principal seats of the Borah trading community,—a Guzerattee Mahomedan sect. A Mullah, subordinate to the chief Mullah at Surat, resides here. The Borah burial-place, though celebrated, has nothing architectural to recommend it.

At a distance of two miles from the city is the Lallbagh, a handsome park, for the amusement of the inhabitants. It contains five hundred acres of beautifully wooded ground, abundantly supplied with water by an aqueduct forming part of the city water-work system.

Burwye is situated on the north bank of the Nerbudda, on the Indore and Bombay road, which here crosses the Nerbudda in the dry season by means of a trestle bridge; in the monsoon there is a small steamer which was put on the river by Major Keatinge, and called the "Patrick French." It is distant about forty miles from Khundwa, the nearest station on the main line of the G. I. P. Railway. The population is about 3,500 souls. The town boasts of no particular manufacture, but iron is abundant.

The fort, which was built by the ancestors of a zemindar named Rana Keerut Sing, who resides here, is now in ruins and contains the tehsilee and police station. At Burwye is a tehsilee, a police station-house, and Government school, attended both by male and female children; a charitable dispensary with a native doctor; a post-office, and a large dak bungalow. The only residents of note, are Rana Keerut Sing, (Honorary Magistrate), his brother Anoop Sing, and Rajah Sirdar Sing, the chief of Oonkar Mandatta.

The Chorah nullah flows to the east of the town, below the iron works. The works were commenced towards the end of 1861, with the sanction of the Secretary of State, and the Government of India. The merits of the iron-ore in the neighbourhood of Burwye had long been urged by Major Keatinge, V.C., late Political Agent in Nimar. This officer conducted for some years experiments on a small scale in smelting iron, in the Nerbudda valley; and in 1861, the Burwye iron-works were established at his suggestion, with a view to prove whether the iron-ores of the neighbourhood could, or could not be profitably worked. When on leave to England in 1860, Major Keatinge, with the permission of the Secretary of State, visited Sweden, and there, with the advice of Doctor Grill, Government Director of Mines, selected Mr. Mitander, a Swedish gentleman, to superintend the works at Burwye. It was hoped that with such practical and professional help the natives of this country might be instructed in those portions of the work connected with the manufacture of iron which require skill and practice. Under Major Keatinge's directions, Mr. Mitander erected the building connected with the works, and machinery of the following descriptions was imported from England at a cost of half a lakh of rupees, namely:—

Seven steam-engines.

Rolling-mill.

Steam-hammer.

Blowing-engine.

Punching, shearing, and planing machines.

Buildings, consisting of one blast furnace, work-shops, calcining kiln, charcoal sheds, rolling-mill house, forges, office and quarters for Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent were also erected; and charcoal, ore, and flux were collected in considerable quantities.

NIMAR.

Burwye.

These works were all finished, and the whole machinery got into working order, by January 1833, through the great personal exertions of Major Keatinge, Captain Melliss, Mr. Mitander, and Lieut. Marryat. Towards the end of January the furnace was lighted, and the first attempt, on a large scale, to smelt the Burwye iron, was made; but the experiment unfortunately failed, for after the first one or two tappings, the bottom began to fill with slag, and within twenty-four hours from the first tapping, the bottom got choked up, and the furnace became unworkable. Hence the works were stopped.

The experiment thus was unsuccessful; and the cause was simply this, that the men who had to remove the sand, in order to make the crifice and to extract the ore, consisted of a few natives, and some European soldiers employed for the occasion. These men being inexperienced could not perform the operation with the requisite skill and promptitude, nor was it possible for Mr. Mitander alone, even with all his knowledge, to effect what was necessary without some trained assistance.

Khundwa.

Khundwa, the civil station and head-quarters of the district of Nimar, is about a mile and a half to the west of the town; the station is within the village boundaries of Rattagurh. Khundwa contains 1,219 houses, and a population of 5,530 souls. The railway from Bombay to Jubbulpore runs close to the town, and there is a station there. This town is likely to be of some importance, as the traffic from Central India will come to Khundwa; and it has been fixed upon for a sorting Post office. A drinking fountain has lately been constructed by the local committee, and a railway serai has been commenced.

Government Offices.

Geological formation.

Mundlaisur.

Sorting post office; tehseldaree; police station-house.

Hard black basalt, with mines of quartz here and there.

Mundlaisur, in the Kusrawud pergannah, is situated on a bend of the north bank of the river Nerbudda; and has been, since the British took the place from the Mahrattas in 1817, the head-quarters of the Agency until in 1864, when the district was made over to the Central Provinces, and the head-quarters removed to Khundwa. The town is about sixty miles in a north-westerly direction from Khundwa; population 4,000. The place was formerly one of note under the Mahrattas, but is now dwindling into insignificance. The fort, which was built by a Brahmin, about eighty years ago, has been kept in good repair, and was used formerly for a jail. There are no particular manufactures in Mundlaisur.

There is an Honorary Magistrate residing about four miles off; and in the town is a police station-house, and Post office, and Government school, for the Vernacular languages. Water-wheels for grinding corn were introduced by the late Political Agent, Major Keatinge.

Oonkar Mandatta.

In October a large religious fair, for the purpose of bathing in the sacred water, is held on an island named Oonkar Mandatta, about eight miles east of Burwye. Pilgrims come from immense distances, bringing water from the Ganges to sprinkle over the god Oonkar.

Poonassa.

At Poonassa there is a stone fort; curtain walls and bastions built by Ranah Koossul Sing, in Sumbut 1787, or 135 years ago, and

said to have cost 96,000 rupees. It is capable of holding about a thousand men, and there are two wells in it. In by-gone days Poonahs contained six thousand houses, and the pergannah was well cultivated. From Sunbut 1860 to Sunbut 1880, it was several times plundered by Pindarees. At present it is almost entirely waste; the soil is rich, and most of it available for sale under the waste land sale rules.

Pundanah, ten miles west of Khundwa, contains five hundred houses and a population of 2,400 souls; it is an important trade-mart.

Shahpore, six miles south by west from Boorhaupore, and forty-seven miles from Khundwa, the head-quarters of the district, contains 500 houses; 2,500 inhabitants, all of whom are cultivators; one Hindoo Government school, attended by forty-six scholars; and a police station-house. The surrounding country is celebrated for the large plantation of mango trees, which extends to the east and west of Shahpore, and which is said to have contained some myriads of trees. There are still thousands.

Its history is contained in that of Boorhaupore, of which it formed a part. It is situated on the south bank, or on the opposite of Tiptee from Boorhaupore over south bank. It contains 250 houses, 1,200 inhabitants, and one Government Hindoo school. Ruins of serais, musjids, and tombs, are numerous. Zeinabad is now a small, insignificant village.

Pundanah.

Shahpore.

Zeinabad.

NURSINGPORE.*

The Nursingpore district lies in latitude 23°N., and longitude 79°E. Its whole area is 1,916 square miles, of which about half is cultivated.

It consists of two, or more exactly speaking, of three distinct portions. The largest of these lies south of the Nerbudda, and is clearly defined on three sides by rivers; viz., on the north by the Nerbudda, on the east by the Soneir, and on the west by the Doodhye. The southern boundary is an irregular east and west line, including a strip of the Sautpoora table-land, generally narrow, but of varying width.

The Trans-Nerbudda portions are two isolated tracts, annexed to the district after its original formation. The easternmost is a mere insignificant patch of hill and ravine. The westernmost is a small but fertile valley, enclosed by the Nerbudda in a crescent-shaped bend of the Vindhya range. The whole area of the district is 1,916 square miles, of which about half is cultivated. The extreme length from east to west is about 75 miles, and the extreme breadth is about 40 miles. The number of villages is 1,108, giving an average area to each village of nearly one and three-quarter square miles.

**NURSING-
PORE.**

**Boundaries,
area, physical
features.**

**Cis-Nerbudda
pergannahs.**

**Trans-Ner-
budda tracts.**

* Almost the whole of this article, excepting the notices of towns, has been transcribed verbatim from the Report of the Settlement of Land Revenue in this district, submitted in 1885 by Mr. C. Grant of the Bengal Civil Service.

NURSINGPORE
Physical
Geography.

The district may be described with approximate accuracy as forming the upper half of the Nerbudda valley proper. The first of those wide alluvial basins which, alternating with rocky gorges, give so varied a character to the river's course, opens out just beyond the famous marble rocks at Bheraghat, about eight miles west of Jubbulpore and 15 miles east of the Nursingpore district boundary. It is stated to extend as far as Hindia in the Hoshungabad district, a distance of about 225 miles. The general elevation exceeds 1,000 feet above the sea, and the fall is very gradual. In the opinion of geologists, the basins, of which this is one, were originally marine lakes, which were "more or less intimately connected with each other, and were fed by a slowly flowing river, down which clayey sediment was carried, and distributed in a gradual and uniform manner, over a considerable extent of country." On the conglomerate and clay thus deposited lie twenty feet of the rich alluvium so well known as the "regur," or black cotton soil of India.

**Sautpoora
range.**

The face of the Sautpoora range overlooking the valley is generally regular, and probably nowhere rises more than 500 feet above the low land. It runs in a line almost parallel to the course of the river, at an average distance of fifteen or twenty miles. The intervening space, as has been stated above, forms the bulk of the Nursingpore district.

**Vindhya
range.**

The Vindhya table-land, though also sandstone, is an entirely distinct formation from the Sautpoora range. Its most marked characteristic, according to the geological survey report,* is the "persistency over great areas of regularly bedded fine grained grits, with a characteristic red colour." Its southern scarp, though generally abrupt, is irregular in its alignment,—twice abutting on the river bed, and twice opening out into the bay-like curves, which have been already mentioned as the detached Trans-Nerbudda portions of the district. Still the effect of the hill lines, viewed from a little distance, is sufficiently regular not to interfere with the otherwise compact configuration of the district.

**General ap-
pearance.**

A broad strip, walled in on either hand by low hill ranges, and green from end to end with young wheat,—such is the appearance of this section of the valley in the winter months, when strangers usually visit it. For the black soil roads are almost impassable in the monsoon; and the temperature in the hot season, though far more moderate than in the parched-up plains of Upper India, is sufficiently severe to make travelling for the time, a matter rather of duty than of pleasure.

Perhaps no part of the course of the Nerbudda is less precipitous or broken than the section which lies within this district. In the whole length of seventy-five miles, there is only one fall of about 10 feet,

nearly opposite the village of Oomuria, N. N. E. of Nursingpore. Yet the Nerbudda retains throughout the high steep banks and narrow basaltic bed, which are its distinctive features as a river; and, running in a confined unyielding channel down a narrow valley, its floods are so vehement and sudden as to cause serious difficulties and anxiety to English Engineers. It is fed almost entirely from the south, as the Vindhya table-land *slopes down towards the north almost from the edge of its southern escarpment, and the drainage south of the line of watershed is small. Its principal affluents are the Sher and the Shukur; the latter of which, according to native tradition, was once known by the less dignified name of "soor," or pig; and owes its new appellation to the euphemistic scruples of a Mahomedan of rank, who emptied into it a cart-load of sugar. These with their tributaries, the Machariva and Cheetariva, take their rise in the Sautpoora table-land, and are essentially mountain torrents throughout. Their streams, rapid but irregular, pour through deep rocky channels, fringed on either hand with unbroken series of ravines. Here and there, however, more especially in the Shukur and Cheetariva, their beds open out into small oases of the richest alluvial deposits, which are tilled like gardens with the finer kinds of sugarcane and vegetables.

*Affluents of
the Nerbudda*

In the second rank are the Doodhye, Barooriva and Soneir. The latter resembles the rivers already described. The two former differ from them in the sandy character of their channels, which are little utilized, except by an occasional melon bed. The smaller rivers are too numerous for separate notice, but it may be mentioned as an illustration of the extraordinary rapidity of rise, which is common to them all, that the Singhree, a little stream, which rises not ten miles from Nursingpore and Kundylee, has been more than once known to inundate the town of Kundylee, and to occasion serious loss both of life and property to the townspeople.

*Smaller
streams.*

The hill country included in the Nursingpore district is insignificant in extent. To the north in the Chowurpatha tehsil, the boundary is the outer watershed; that is the watershed of the smaller streams, and this limit includes no whole villages. Between the Chowurpatha tehsil and the smaller Trans-Nerbudda block, known as the Heerapore talooqa, the river itself is the northern boundary. This portion of the Heerapore talooqa, some 30 square miles in extent, and containing ten villages, is perhaps the only compact block of hills in the district, as the Buehye and Sreenuggur pergunnahs, though broken by spurs of the Sautpoora range, contain more valley than hill, and the strip of hill facing the Nursingpore and Gadurwara pergunnahs seldom exceeds three or four miles in depth. This perhaps is the wildest part of the district, as the passes from the plain are generally difficult of access to any but mountaineers, and the country is more broken and precipitous than the inner tracts of the table-land; but it is not sufficiently extensive to form an appreciable element in the composition of the district.

Hill tracts.

The highroad from Jubbulpore towards Bombay runs right through the Nursingpore district from east to west. It is a good fair-weather road, but unmetalled, and only partially bridged, and therefore impracticable during the rainy season. There are dak bungalows at Chindwara, Nursingpore station, and Nadnair. The route from Nursingpore station northwards across the Nerbudda towards Saugor, is the ordinary line of communication between the western Nagpore and Nerbudda districts, and Bundeuland. At Kharipanee, twelve miles from the station, is a travellers or staging-bungalow. After crossing the Nerbudda, this road is taken through an opening in the hills, by which all ascent is avoided, until the level Chowurpatha valley ends at the base of the Vindhya. The road towards Seonee runs southwards by Sreenuggur to the foot of the Santpooras, crossing the rivers Sher and Oomur. The road to Chindwara passes by Hurrye. None of these are yet metalled, but the more difficult water-courses have been bridged, and each season advances the work of improving communication. The Great Indian Peninsula Railway passes through the length of the district from east to west, with stations at Chindwara, Nursingpore, Mundesur, and Gadurwara. A first class military road will connect Saugor with the line at one of these points, and a system of railway feeders has been undertaken.

Population.

The total population, of the district according to the census taken in November 1866, amounts to 336,000 souls. Its composition is almost purely Hindoo. The Mahomedans number little more than three per cent of the whole. The Gonds have not been separately registered, as most of this race who dwell in the valley conform to Hindoo rites and observances. Therefore, besides the Mahomedans, the only dissentients from the Hindoo faith are a few Jain merchants and mountain Gonds.

Religious divisions.

Caste divisions.

Among the Nursingpore population the subjoined castes are largely represented; namely :—

Brahmins	..	..	..	23,789 souls
Rajpoets	..	..	..	13,930 "
Lodhees	..	..	..	26,698 "
Chumars and Dhers	..	..	..	35,249 "
Bunials	..	..	..	7,949 "
Mussulmans	..	..	..	11,487 "
Gonds	..	..	..	40,220 "

The most influential land-holding classes are Brahmins, Rajpoets, Raj-Gonds, Lodhees, Koormees, and Kaonras. The Brahmin and Rajpoet zamindars are scattered all over the district. The Raj-Gonds and Kaonras are to be found principally in the western sub-division, Gadurwara. The Lodhees in Sreenuggur and Nursingpore, the eastern and central sub-divisions. The Koormees in Nursingpore,

Besides genuine Rajpoets and Kaonras, there are three other castes well represented among the land-holding body, who claim Rajpoet descent, viz. Boondelas, Rughobunsees, and Kerars. The total number of land-holding classes is thirty-two, and the total number of castes presented in the district is not less than twice that number.

The habits and history of the Gond race would fill a book, but they are too unimportant an element in the population of Nursingpore to demand anything here, beyond a passing notice of their more salient peculiarities. They consist of two main divisions, the Raj-Gonds, or patricians, who claim Rajpoot descent, and the Dhoor-Gonds, or plebeians. The former are sub-divided into five classes, the latter into fifteen.

Gonds.

The Mehras, or, as they are more generally known (from the nature of their usual occupation,) the Kotwars, are considered by Colonel Sleeman an aboriginal race, who "at some remote period, formed a polished addition to the Gonds." Tradition represents them as the "weavers, watchmen, and accountants," while the Gonds were soldiers and husbandmen.

Mehras or Kotwars.

The predatory classes belong rather to the history than to the present population of the district. But it may be interesting to note that of the three principal Pindaree leaders of the "Scindiah Shahi," two had possessions in the Nursingpore district. Cheetoo, a chief who led 5,000 horsemen, held Burah in jageer. Kureem Khan, a commander of more than 1,000 horse, had at one time lands in Puloha. The Pindarees are fortunately a thing of the past; and though the complete extinction of the thugs cannot be predicated with equal confidence, it is at least curious now to hear that in Captain Sleeman's time, a gang of Thugs lived not four hundred yards from his cutcherry, and that the groves of Mundesur, some twelve miles from Nursingpore, were one of the greatest "Beles," or places of slaughter, in all India, though nothing of this was known to Captain Sleeman till seven or eight years afterwards in 1831.

Thugs and Pindarees.

The true talooqdaree tenures of Nursingpore are a relic of the Gond rule. Men of other classes have under the Mahratta and British administrations obtained large estates, but the distinguishing feature of the talooqa,—a single assessment for the whole estate—had only survived up to the present settlement in the territories of the influential Gond chiefs, who count their term of occupancy by centuries. The twin talooqas of the Cheechlee and Gangye Rajahs include eighty villages, and cover more than a hundred and fifty square miles of country in the Gadurwara tehsil. These chiefs trace their descent from a common ancestor, who is said by family tradition to have obtained the grant of the whole tract (divided into two talooqas in 1704 A. D.) in Sumbut 1282, corresponding to 1225 A. D.

Tenures of land.

There are other talooqas of minor importance, among which may be mentioned those of Dilheree and Heerapore.

Under the Mundla dynasty the Gond chiefs held, for the most part, on feudal tenures, but their privileges were generally abrogated by the Mahrattas, who, keeping up a regular standing army, substituted quit-rents for military contingents. The Dilheree and Heerapore chiefs retained their jageers throughout the Mahratta domination. The right of these Talooqdars to hold their estates as superior proprietors has been formally recognized in the Settlement just concluded, but in several cases a sub-settlement has been also made with the farmers of

villages on an estate, where long hereditary holding or heavy outlay on improvements, or both, have been decided to establish a right of occupancy.

The ordinary tenure of the country has hitherto been "Malgoozaree." A Malgoozar was a mere farmer under Government, with no rights beyond the term of his engagement; but under the Settlement just concluded, the Government has now bestowed complete proprietary title on those with whom the engagements for the land revenue have been made. The Malgoozar is now owner of the land, which he has full power to alienate, and which descends by inheritance. A few of the principal families maintain a modified form of primogeniture, but the prevailing tenure is that of a proprietary community, although in some cases the estates have already been sub-divided into distinct shares.

Certain rent-free and quit-rent tenures exist here and there. These are assignments of land by individuals for a consideration, either of value or of kindred religious endowments, or alienations of revenue by grant from the ruling power or its officers. Of late years the hereditary rights of cultivators have been formally acknowledged and established.

All waste lands, of which no possession or specific right of occupancy could be probed by private persons, have been demarcated and surveyed, and may be purchased from the Government at an upset price per acre.

History. The old name of the district proper was Gurha Duchunter, or Dukshunter ("the south bank"). The earliest known rulers of it were the Gond Rajahs of Gurha Mundla, under whom it appears to have been divided by the Sher river into two districts or "Gurhs,"—Munooagurh (?) and Bhourgurh. Little is now known regarding their system of government, but it is believed to have been principally feudal. The greater part of the district was no doubt parcelled out in service tenure among the Gond chiefs, whose descendants still retain some influence here; but there are occasional traces in the earlier records of more direct administration through Hindoo or Mahomedan deputies of the supreme power. Singram Sah, one of the greatest of the Gond line, is said to have been the builder of the old fortress of Chowragurh, which crowns the northern summit of the Santpoora hills, at a distance of about twenty miles southwest of Nursingpore. It was twice besieged and twice taken during the Gond rule,—once by Asuf Khan, a lieutenant of the great Akbar, in 1564; and again by the Rajah of Orai in Bundelcund, in 1593; but neither inroad led to any permanent occupation, for it was not till 1781 or 1782 that the district was lost to the Mundla dynasty, and annexed to the territories of the Mahratta chiefs of Saugor. Their administration was short, and in no way remarkable. In 1798 they were expelled by the powerful Bhonslah Rajahs, although the Chowragurh fort held out until February 1799. Under the Nagpore rule, the district at first attained a great degree of prosperity. A strong force was maintained in it for the defence of the frontier, and crowds of fugitives poured in from the neighbouring western districts which were left at the mercy of the Pindarees. The district was thus brought into a high state of cultivation, and its produce found a ready market in the consumption of the army. This lasted until 1807, when the Nursingpore and Hoshungabad districts, with an annual money allowance of three lakhs of rupees,

History of Nursingpore proper, or Duchunter.

Gond rule.

Saugor rule.

were granted to Nuwab Sadeek Ali Khan, for the support of the frontier army. The money remittances soon began to fail in punctuality, and at this inopportune season, the notorious Ameer Khan, supported by the Bhopal Nuwab and the Pindarees, rayaged Mundla and threatened Sreenuggur. He withdrew on the approach of a British force, but this coincidence of increased expenses, with contracted means, drove the Nagpore Governor to rack his farmers by every possible engine of extortion, and the district suffered considerably.

British rule.

In November 1817 the treachery of the Rajah of Nagpore led to the advance of our army on Jubbulpore, after taking which Brigadier General Hardyman was enabled to detach a force under Colonel Macmorine to this district. A spirited engagement took place at Sreenuggur, the old capital of Duchuntee, on the 15th January 1818, in which our troops defeated and dispersed a Mahratta force of about 7,000 men, chiefly cavalry. The strong fort of Chowragurh, garrisoned by 1,200 men, and well supplied with cannon, at first held out, and Colonel Macmorine's detachment while encamped at the foot of the fort hill, was even fired on by a body of guerilla troops. The fort was however evacuated by the enemy on the approach of the left division of the army under Brigadier General Watson, and British ascendancy was thus finally established in the district. We found the country, as may be imagined, in a much exhausted condition, and Colonel Sleeman has left it on record that the two most laborious and anxious years of his life were spent in trying to keep together the agricultural communities of his charge. His hands were strengthened by the wise liberality of Mr. Malony, the chief civil authority of the Province, and each successive settlement of the land revenue lightened the burdens of the agricultural class, till in 1835 they were in a position to reap the full benefits of the first long term settlement, which was made on terms of unprecedented liberality. Secure at once from foreign raids and domestic exactions the people have grown rich, and the western part of the district, which is the most recently developed, may well bear comparison with most similar tracts in India.

Administration.

The chief judicial and executive officers reside at Nursingpore, but the district contains three sub-divisions under Tehseeldars, at Nursingpore, Gadurwara, and Chowurpatha, who exercise judicial as well as revenue jurisdiction. The Salt customs line runs along the section of the district west of the point at which it comes in from the north. The patrol's station is at Gadurwara.

Agriculture, soil.

The bed of the valley has already been described as consisting of a deep bed of black soil, flanked at the base of the hills on either side by bands of the more recent sandstone detritus, and scoured away on river banks by the converging drainage of the valley. It is from this rich central deposit that the valley derives its chief wealth. Wheat is taken from it year after year without any attempt at relieving it, either by manure or by a system of rotation. But though its annual tribute is unfailingly rendered, it is useless to deny that the powers of the soil have deteriorated under so constant a strain. The average return of wheat is six maunds, or about eight bushels, per acre, being

Nursing
PORE

not more than four times the seed sown. Captain Sleeman, writing in 1824, says that in Sumbut 1863, (corresponding to 1807 A.D.) land newly broken up in this district yielded from fifteen to twenty returns. That after twenty years uninterrupted tillage, the returns of the same land had sunk to from eight-fold to five-fold, but that in the adjoining districts belonging to Bhopal and to Scindiah, lying on the other side of the Nerbudda, the returns were at the time of his writing equal to those recorded in this district in Sumbut 1863, and that many cultivators had thrown up their lands because they only yielded nine-fold. He adds that the average returns of the Nursingpore district are not more than from four to seven-fold, the mean therefore being five and a half fold. Some Malgoozars' accounts of seer land for the same period show the average returns at five-fold and six-fold. The next returns in point of time consist of an investigation of produce made in 1828, in which average wheat produce is recorded as five-fold. Captain Quseley in his settlement report of 1836, though he has left no regular statistics on the subject, casually mentions in one place that three-fold is a very low return, and eight-fold is a very high one for wheat. From that it seems probable that in his time the rate of produce was much the same as in 1828, viz., five-fold.

Principal staples of district.

The principal products of the district are sugarcane, wheat, gram, and cotton, though among food grains, rice, shamakh (*panicum colonum*), kodo (*paspalum frumentaceum*), and to a very small extent barley, are represented. Among oil seeds, linseed, tillee (*sesamum indicum*), castor oil, and mustard. Among millets, joar, (Indian millet), bajra (Italian millet), and kungnee (spiked millet). Among pulses, urhur or rahur, (pigeon pea), oord (*dolichos pilosus*), moong (*phaseolus mungo*), mussoor (*ervum hirsutum*). Among dyes, al (*morinda citrifolia*). Among fibres, hemp and "amaree." And among garden products, tobacco, sweet potatoes, potatoes, onions, turnips, and radishes.

Wheat, sugar-cane and cotton.

The wheat is of two kinds, *jullaliya* (large), and *pissee* (small). It is grown in the rude way above described. In one village only (Buchye) is the "kuthiya," or red wheat grown, but that is said to be unsurpassed in quality. Sugarcane is of five kinds. Two large, one of which is indigenous, and the other is the Otaheite cane, imported by Colonel Sleeman. These are used only for eating. Of the smaller kinds, one alone, the Kuth-burahee, is put into the mill; goor is made from its juice, but no sugar. There remain the white, "kosiyar", and the "puchrungee," or five-coloured cane, used exclusively for eating. The finest canes are produced by irrigation, but on the edges of forests a practice prevails of protecting the young shoots by layers of brushwood, till they attain strength. The area under cotton has steadily increased up to last year:—

	Acres.
In 1862 there were under cotton	69,880
" 1863 " " "	84,000
" 1864 " " "	100,000
" 1865 it fell to " " "	90,000

Cotton is grown, not on the so-called black cotton soil, but on the light undulating soils on the banks of rivers and nullahs. No artificial means

of stimulating its growth being employed, the crops have ordinarily the poorest appearance; and some estimates rate the average produce as low as eight or ten lbs. of cleaned cotton per acre. It is probably about three times as much.

The district is even better known for its mineral stores than for its agricultural wealth, as an English company has been formed to work its iron and coal. The selected mines are almost on the same meridian of longitude; but the iron pits lie north of the Nerbudda, near the Vindhya hills; and the excavations for coal have been made at Mohpanee, in the Sautpoora hills, at the debouchure of the Cheta Riva river. The place is distant eleven miles from the Gadurwara Railway station. It has been worked by the Nerbudda Coal and Iron Company since 1861 under a mining license, of which an extract is appended (see appendix A). The field is described in the Memoirs of the Geological Survey of India, Volume II, Part 2, page 169. In the section exposed in the gorge through which the Cheta Riva river escapes from the hills, the three seams of coal aggregate nineteen feet thick, the first seam being ten feet, the second five feet, and the third four feet. Several galleries have already been sunk, and a steam engine has been put up to draw out the loaded trucks. The miners are principally Gonds, whose insensibility to fear qualifies them well for under-ground work. The coal is said "to resemble the Cannel coal of the British mines, and consequently to be a bituminous variety." Though inferior to the best English kinds, it is stated to be "applicable for railway or steam purposes, or for the manufacture of iron." Mr. Blackwell, mineral viewer for Bombay, estimated the total available quantity of coal here at one and three quarter millions of tons. Coal is also found in the rivers Sher and Shukr, but in small quantities. A specimen from Sehora ghat, on the Sher river, exhibited by the Deputy Commissioner, gained the first prize at the Nagpore Exhibition. It is said to be like Cannel coal, hard, compact, jetty, and free from pyrites of iron. The seam from which it was taken is not believed to be very extensive.

The *company have not yet commenced operations at Tendookhera, and the iron which bears the name of that town is still worked by native miners. Tendookhera itself is situated on the banks of a hill stream, about two miles south of the Vindhyan escarpment. It is distant 35 miles from the Gadurwara Railway station. From the employment of charcoal exclusively in smelting, the town has not the smoky appearance with which we are accustomed to associate manufacturing cities, but the ceaseless clink of hammers which may be heard from some distance, marks it as distinct in character from the agricultural villages of the valley. The mines are in the open plain, though not far from a long low lime-stone hill, about two miles to the south-west of the town. They are mere open pits, cut to the depth of about thirty feet through the black soil, and the underlying clay, and require to be reconstructed yearly after the rainy season.

NUMEROUS
POLES

Mineral resources.

Coal.

* The territorial limits of the charter given to the Tendookhera Iron Company are subjoined in Appendix.

Forests.**Forest tracts.****Forest produce.****Trade.****Trading towns.****Birmhan Fair.**

The forest produce of Nursingpore is insignificant. There is probably no district in the province so devoid of extensive waste tracts. Parts of the valley of the Doodhye (in Gadurwara), of the Sher and Macha-Riva (in Buchye), and of the Oomur and Sonair (in Sreenuggur), come legitimately under the denomination of forest land; but they do not now contain any fine timber except Mohwa trees, which are too valuable for purposes of sustenance to allow of their being cut down. These lands have been marked off into lots, and can be purchased from Government at an upset price per acre.

The usual forest produce, lac, honey, wax, gum, mohwa, and chironjee, are found in these waste tracts, but the means of access to them are too easy to allow of their being very plentiful.

There are only two real trading towns at present, (Nursingpore and Gadurwara), though there are a few merchants and bankers located about the district, at such places as Chindwara and Kowiriah on the main road, and Singhpoor, Puloha, Sainkhera, and Barah, in the interior. Nursingpore is now a thriving place, containing with Khundeylee, which adjoins it, nearly ten thousand inhabitants. The imports for 1864-65 are stated in Major Baldwin's trade report at nine and a quarter lakhs, and the exports at nearly eight and a half lakhs. The imports are described to be the staples ordinarily required for Indian domestic consumption, viz., sugar, salt, spices, grain, cloth, tobacco, opium, hardware, &c. The exports are principally wholesale consignments to smaller towns or fairs. Nursingpore is in fact an entrepôt for the rest of the district; and the trade, though insignificant, measured by that of the commercial centres of India, will not seem inconsiderable viewed with regard to the former status of the town, and of the district. Nursingpore was in the Mahratta times a mere insignificant village, known as Guderiyakhera, and it passed under the intermediate designation of Chota Gadurwara, before attaining its present name, from a temple of Nur Sing, one of the avatars of Vishnu. The banking and mercantile houses, by whom the trade is now carried on, are mostly branches of large firms established in important cities, who sent down their agents in the wake of the grand army in 1818. Similarly, Gadurwara, which has now some six thousand inhabitants, and a mercantile capital, probably amounting to eight or ten lakhs of rupees, is said not to have possessed a single trader of any standing under the Mahrattas, though the head-quarters of the Soobah, Nuwab Sadeek Ali Khan, and his force, were for some time located there.

Hitherto, in the absence of any large mart, the distribution of foreign necessaries has been effected a good deal by means of an extensive fair, which is held yearly in the months of November and December on the sands of the Nerbudda at Birmhan, distant fourteen miles from Nursingpore. The primary object of the fair, as of all such assemblages in India, is religious; but the shops and booths now fully hold their own against the temples. The merchandize brought to this fair in 1864 was estimated by the Deputy Commissioner as worth above six lakhs of rupees, of which more than half found a sale. The principal

item of merchandize was English cloth, of which two lakhs worth was received; after that lac ornaments, then copper utensils. Four classes of traders,—pedlars, drapers, braziers, and grain-sellers,—held more than one hundred shops each. The attendance was estimated at about sixty thousand but there must be a much larger gathering upon the sacred nights, when crowds of Hindoos assemble to bathe in the river at the moon's change; while the average number of persons who come merely to buy and sell cannot be less than twenty thousand.

The only export of any consequence until lately has been cotton. The mercantile firms of Nursingpore and Gadurwara have taken full advantage of the extraordinary English demand, and the wealth and extended views thus acquired will be turned to good account when the opening of the railroad expands the trade of the valley.

The manufacturers of the district may be dismissed in a few words. Brass and bell-metal vessels are made at Cheechlee, where there are forty or fifty families of brass founders, but not to a sufficient extent even to supply local consumption. A kind of stamped cotton fabric is made at Gadurwara. Iron is manufactured at Tendookhera. And tussa silk is woven at Nursingpore, where also are made saddle-cloths, which have a rather wide local reputation.

The standard weight in the district is the seer of 80 tolas. The common dry measure for retail trade is the pie, which has a cubic capacity of 75.40 inches, and contains about 90 tolas weight of ordinary small grain.

The table of dry measures run as follows:—

8 Pies	==	1 Kooroo,
4 Kooroos	==	1 Mun,
12 Muns	==	1 Mani,

Land revenue	...	...	...	Rs. 3,92,723
Miscellaneous revenue	...	...	”	100
Abkaree	...	...	”	16,668
Stamps	..	...	”	42,777

Exports.

Manufactures.

Weights and measures.

Public Revenues.

Local taxes.

No.	Name of town or village.	Population.	Number of enclosures or houses.	Mode of taxation.	Mode of appropriating net income of column 12.										
					Police.	General im- provements.									
1	Sing- pore and Khar- dyeys.	2 184	9 604	Usual town population, with a few large agency houses.	Town duty	Rs. 5 143	Rs. 1 62	Rs. 3 518	Rs. 3 518	Rs. 1 363	Rs. 998	Rs. 1 289	Rs.	Rs.	
2	Ghat- war.	1 167	5 641	Usual town population, with bankers and House tax traders chiefly.		803	3 068	1 007	2 061	2 864	1 Head Constable 8 Constables.	609	375	758	1 122
3	Kow- zah.	651	3 158	Large village population. The town is a depot for cotton, and agencies for its purchase have been established.	Ditto	288	1 398	617	781	1 069	1 Head Constable 4 Constables.	352	36	108	573
4	Ghurun- patha.	276	1 206	Village population, principally Brahmins.	Ditto	272	643	238	405	677	..	320	36	..	321
5	Tar- oor. Bhils.	570	2 670	Populated by iron workers principally.	Ditto	...	647	190	457	457	..	27	36	..	394

Nursingpore and Khundeylee lie close together, and unite to form the head-quarters of the district. Nursingpore contains two thousand and fifty houses, with a population of nine thousand six hundred and four souls. It is situated on the west bank of the Singree nullah, which has its source in the hills; is generally a shallow stream but rises in the rains, at times 20 feet or more. The construction of a dam has provided good and convenient water-supply to the town. In the Gond rule the Mundla chief gave this village with others to Chien Sah, who improved it. It was then called Chota Gadurwara. Afterwards, under the Mahrattas, it came into possession of the ancestors of the present holders, and Rao Jugarnath built a large temple to Nur Sing, from which the town derived its present name. Its present state is prosperous, and the opening of the railroad will certainly add to its prosperity. It has no manufactures of repute, though some common native cloth is made but it has become one of the depots for the produce of the rich valley of the Nerbudda. The town duties are levied on the octroi system, affording an income of about Rs. 6,000 for the conservancy, police, and improvement of the town. The principal Government buildings are the Courts and offices of the Deputy Commissioner, the Settlement Officer, and the Police Superintendent. There is a jail, a dispensary, a dak bungalow, and a travellers rest-house. The Post Office is under the control of a native Deputy Post Master. The Zillah school-house is a commodious and pretty building; it is popular, and has an attendance of one hundred and fifty scholars, many of whom learn English. There are in addition two private schools, and a police school. There is a tank which fills in the rains, but from the porous nature of the soil, soon dries up.

Contains a population of 1,230 souls. It lies twelve miles distant from Nursingpore, on the right bank of the Nerbudda, and is the residence of the Tehseeldar of the sub-division of Chawurpatha.

NUMBERS
PORE
Principal
towns.
Nursingpore.

Chawurpat-
tha.

Cheechlee.

This large village is only noticeable as giving its name to a talooqua which has been held for many generations by a family of Raj-Gonds, whose hereditary representative still resides here. The estate comprises thirty-nine villages, and lies in the main to the south of Gadurwara, on the left bank of the Rewa river, extending down to the hills. When Ameer Khan invaded this country in 1809, Rajah Sungram Sing of Cheechlee stood manfully by the defeated representative of the Nagpore government, and distinguished himself in a skirmish whereby the Pindarees received a decided check.

Chindwara.

A town in pergunnah and district Nursingpore; on the Ebha nullah, twenty-two miles east of Nursingpore. It contains 569 houses, with a population of 1,521 souls. Nothing is heard of it in the Gond rule, but in the time of the Mahrattas, and up to A.D. 1783, Cheinpooree Goosseen was Malgoozar. Tekeyut Rae succeeded him, till the British rule, then Balajee, a Mahratta, obtained it for a time, after which it was

given back to Khooman, one of Tekeyut Rae's family. He was imprudent, and Khooshal Chund the banker got it from him, and now holds it. There used to be a Naib-Tehseeldaree here and there is a police station, so that the town has become one of more than average importance. There is a large cattle fair held weekly. It is on the highroad to Jubbulpore, and has a railway station; it is increasing in importance as a depot for the produce of the neighbouring villages in the valley. There are no manufactures.

Gadurwara.

This is the richest town in the district. It is situated on an undulating piece of land on the left bank of the river Shukr, with two main streets, which are clean, but narrow. The road to Hoshungabad runs through one of these streets. The town consists of a group of 1,647 houses, of which number 130 are built of baked bricks and mortar. The rest are edifices either built of mud, or wattle and daub, covered over with tiled roofs. There is an abundant supply of water here, there being besides the river Shukr which has a perennial stream, seven masonry built, and twenty-eight kucha wells. It has a population of 5,523 souls, the majority of whom are tradesmen and artizans. The preponderating castes are Brahmins, Rajpoots, and Koormees. This town is the centre of a brisk and extensive trade in cotton, salt, and grain. Khurooa cloth, and *chantee*, are manufactured here. Some of the bankers are known to be men of some wealth, and among these may be mentioned Sheo Buksh, and Mohunlal Seth, who have showed their public spirit by building a large rest-house at a cost of Rs. 5,825. There are others almost as wealthy, but of less note. This town is the seat of the fiscal and judicial native officer of the sub-division, the principal station of the constabulary police force, and the head-quarters of the patrol of the section of the Customs line called the "Gadurwara beat." The offices of the Tehseeldar, or fiscal and judicial native officer, and of the Police Inspector, are in the small old fortress on the banks of the Shukr river, the outer walls of which are said to have been built by a family of Gond-Rajpoots for their own protection in the early part of the Mahratta rule. Government offices were built within the quadrangle by Luchmun Sah on his appointment by Nawab Sadeek Ali Khan, the Governor of the Province, as Kamaishdar of the district, in Sumbut 1863 (A. D. 1806). Luchmun Sah's head-quarters were here. Thenceforward this town rose in importance, and the population and trade increased. Its position is commercially a good one, being situated on the bifurcation of the roads to Jubbulpore and Saugor. Native schools numbering 106 pupils have been established here; one is a boy's school, in which ninety-five children are taught, and the other a girl's school, in which eleven children receive education. Two markets are held weekly in this town, one on Monday, and the other on Friday. The station of Nursingpore is distant twenty-eight miles by the main road.

Khundeylee is one mile from Nursingpore, on the east bank of the Singree nullah, which divides the two towns. The Government offices and houses of the European community are in Khundeylee, but the head-quarters are commonly known by the name of Nursingpore.

NURSING-
PORE.
—
Bundela.

Under the Gond rule it was a little village belonging to Singhpore, where the subordinate governing authority resided. Mugdul Brahmin was Malgoozar. He died childless, and Moonajee Pundit, the Mahratta chief authority at Saugor, gave it to the Dilheree chief Luchmun Singh. He again made it over to Jugurnath Koormee, ancestor of Chowdry Bencee Sing, the present Malgoozar and Honorary Magistrate. Now having become the head-quarters of the district, it is a large promising town. The railway has a station here, which will add to its importance and commerce. Manufactures are confined to the common native cloth.

Singhpore

Singhpore, a town in pergannah and district Nursingpore, six miles south of head-quarters, on the river Bura-Riva, contains 1,015 houses, with a population of 3,626. Under the Bundela rule Deomun Golapoorub established the village in A. D. 1783, having been put in possession by Raja Nizam Sah of Mundla. His descendants have held it since; Thakoor Jugut Singh being the present Zemindar. It flourished under the Mahratta rule, and continues to do so under the British Government. There are no manufactures of note; the trade is only in agricultural produce. There is a good town school building built by the Thakoor, and fairly attended. A few temples and some substantial houses, places of residence of the Malgoozar and others, are the only buildings worthy of note.

Sreenuggur.

Sreenuggur, a town in pergannah and district Nursingpore, twenty-two miles south-east of the town of that name, contains 581 houses, with a population of 1,559 souls. It is situated on the bank of the Oonur, an affluent of the Nerbudda. The town was a flourishing one in the time of the Gonds, but under the Mahrattas it became an important place. There was a fortress with a considerable body of troops to garrison it, and the chief authority of the district resided there. There were then some 2,000 houses, and the remains of large buildings; the wall round the town, tanks, and large groves, attest the importance of the town under a former rule. At the commencement of British rule, Puddum Singh, Kayeth, was found Malgoozar, succeeded by Hurbuns Gir, a Gosacen. His sons are now alive and hold the estate, but the town has fallen away to a petty village, and is only mentioned on account of its former importance.

Tendookhera.

Tendookhera lies twenty-two miles north-west of Nursingpore. It is a little town, with a population of 2,822 persons, and is only noticeable on account of its proximity to the iron mines already described, and of the forges which have consequently been established there.

Antiquities.

Castle of
Chowragurh

The castle of Chowragurh, situated on the crest of the outer range of the Sutpoora table-land, and embracing within its circle of defences two hills, is less a fort than a huge fortified camp. The vast scale of

sides of it. The Marwarries shops alone had increased to nearly 100. The Nagpore rupee was current in the town itself, but in the district generally cowries were still the only circulating medium. Since 1854 when the Nagpore State lapsed to the British Government, material and intellectual progress has made rapid strides. Formerly it was difficult to find any man who could read and write sufficiently to keep the most elementary accounts ; now the Mahajuns of the place, as a body, are tolerably well educated. Trade has expanded; competition is to a slight extent beginning to be felt in the ruling prices of the bazaar; and the principles of free trade being strictly enforced, the place is daily increasing both in wealth and importance. The internal trade of the city itself is considerable,—upwards of Rs. 20,000 being realized from the octroi duties.

The population of Raepore has increased in proportion to its commercial prosperity from about 5,000 in A. D. 1818, to 12,000 in 1830, and to about 17,000 in 1866.

At Raepore is stationed a regiment of Native Infantry. This Regiment is under the orders of the Brigadier General Commanding the Kamptee Force.

As the head-quarters of the Chutteesgurh Division of the Central Provinces, there is at Raepore the Court, civil and criminal, of a Commissioner, also a Deputy Commissioner's Court. It is also the head-quarters of a Circle of education; and the town possesses a thriving Anglo-vernacular school, and a Normal school for the training of Vernacular masters.

Raepore is situated in $21^{\circ} 20'$ north latitude, and $81^{\circ} 42'$ east longitude. It is 183 miles east of Nagpore, 163 west of Sumbulpore, and 77 miles south of Belaspore.

Arung is a large town on the Mahanuddy ; it comprises 1,044 houses, and 2,267 inhabitants. It is on the decline since the Tehseeldar's Court was removed from it to Raepore, about 1863. There are a good number of merchant residents; and a large trade in metal pots is carried on. The soil in the neighbourhood is very productive, but the population is sparse. The town contains some ancient ruins of temples and old tanks, as it was formerly one of the seats of the Hy Hy Bunsee Rajpoot dynasty. One of the temples is Jain, and believed to be of considerable antiquity. There are immense groves of mango trees around Arung, in which tigers, to the present day, occasionally take up their abode; and to the north of the town are extensive foundations of brick buildings, showing that the place was formerly of a greater extent than it is at present.

Balede is a small town situated 50 miles south-west of Raepore, consisting of 802 houses, and about 1,800 inhabitants; it lies half a mile from the banks of the Tandoola river, one of the affluents of the Seo. The town is very straggling, and bears signs of having, at one time, been much more flourishing than at present. There is an old fort in a state of delapidation, said to have been built at the close of the fifteenth century of

RAEPORE.

Population.

Principal towns.

Arung.

Balede.

Raepore.

our era, by a cadet of the family of the Rajpoot kings of Ruttunpore. In A. D. 1778 it was taken by the Mahrattas, after a very severe contest, in which the Rajpoot prince was killed. There is an old temple in the town remarkable more for the large stones which form its basement than for any architectural pretensions.

**Bindra
Nowagurh.**

Bindra Nowagurh is one of the Patna group of zemindaries. It is situated to the south-west of Kurriar, and adjoins Narra and others of the south-eastern zemindaries of Chutteesgurh. Only a small proportion of the area is under cultivation. The revenue demand is Rs. 400. The Chief is a Gond by caste.

Bhowmara.

This town lies fifty-six miles to the south-west of Raepore, in the middle of the jungles of the Sinjaree pergunnah. The town consists of about 300 houses, and 500 inhabitants. It is noteworthy as being the place to which the forest produce of a large tract of country is brought. During the Mahratta Government the Sinjaree tract was parcelled out to a set of farmers called Tahoodtars; and it was only in 1857 that the last of them was ejected on failing to pay the Government dues; since then engagements have been entered into directly with the village proprietors.

Chundar.

This is a large village; it comprises 420 houses, and 667 inhabitants, who are chiefly Chumars. This village is the head-quarters, or sanctuary of the Satnamee Chumars of Chutteesgurh. It came into importance about twenty-seven years ago, when Ghassee Dass, the founder of the new faith, became proprietor of the village. He built in the centre a large square temple looking house, and to this place his followers flock three times a year for confession and absolution. (An account of the origin of this sect will be found under *Chutteesgurh*).

Burbuspore.

This zemindaree consists of twenty-two villages; it is situated about sixty miles to the north-west of Raepore. It formerly formed part of the Gundye zemindaree (see under *Gundye*). The Zemindar is a Gond by caste; the revenue demand is Rs. 1,087.

**Choeekuzhan,
or Kondka.**

Choeekuzhan, or Kondka, is the principal town of a feudatory whose territory is situated to the north, and contiguous to Khyragurh. The zemindaree consists of three talookas, separated from each other by the Gundai, Purporie, and Burbuspore zemindarees. It lies at the foot of the Salee Tekree hills; the area in the plains is not large, but it is well cultivated and fertile; it comprises 101 villages, and the Chief pays a tribute of Rs. 7,600 per annum to Government. The town in which the Chief resides consists of 400 houses, with 1,000 or 1,200 inhabitants. The Chief's house is a substantial stone building, standing in a fortified square, and is in strange contrast to the thatched mud huts of his people. The Chief is a Byragee, but belonging to a sect among whom marriage is permitted. The territory was originally conferred by Moodaji Rajah of Nagpore, in A. D. 1750. The town is ten miles north of Khyragurh, and forty-eight miles west by north of Raepore.

This zemindaree consists of fifty villages, only nine of which are under cultivation, and they are all poor and unproductive. It is situated on the west of the Jonk river between Kourea and Sonakan. The revenue demand is only Rs. 10. It is of very ancient origin, the Zemindar is by caste a Bhinjwar.

RAEPORKE.
Decree.

Dhumterry is the largest and most important town in the southern portion of the Raepore district. It is situated thirty-six miles to the south of Raepore, and is the head-quarters of a Tehseelee (sub-collectorate). It contains 1,500 houses, and about 5,000 inhabitants. It is not a place of any great antiquity, nor is there anything remarkable connected with it. The main road from the north to the territories of Bustar and Kankeir passes through Dhumterry.

Dhumterry.

The country around Dhumterry is level, and the soil of great fertility; the crops of wheat, rice, cotton, oil seeds, and sugarcane, are not surpassed by those in any other part of Chutteesgurh. At Dhumterry there is a town school, a post office, and a police station-house. There are also several lac agencies established here, which purchase the raw material as brought in by the collectors from the jungles. These agencies export from 2,000 to 2,500 bullock loads yearly. The load equals 192 seers. The lac is bought in the stick called *kharee*. The stick is removed at the agent's godowns by women; and the loss in weight may on the average be put down as four to five maunds in the bojha of twelve maunds. The lac thus cleaned is styled *daul*. It is in this state bruised small, and securely packed for export in gunny bags, and thus removed on the backs of bullocks. Brinjarras reckon the bojha of lac at eight maunds, or 128 seers; and for each such bojha receive from Rs. 5-12-0 to Rs. 6-4-0 for its transport to Mirzapore and Rs. 4 to Jubbulpore.

Dhumda is situated about 30 miles to the north-west of Raepore. It contains 600 houses; has about 2,500 inhabitants. It is surrounded by fine groves of trees, and there are one or two tanks of considerable size now in a state of decay. There are the remains of an old fort at one time the head-quarters of a Gond chief who ruled subordinate to the kings of Ruttunpore. On the conquest of Chutteesgurh by the Mahrattas, the Gond Chief of Dhumda was for some treachery seized by the Rajah of Nagpore's officers, and blown away from a gun. The fort has two very fine gateways in a fair state of preservation. There are at this place a town school, a district post office, and a police station-house.

Dhumda.

This is now only a small village situated in the south-east of the Khyragurh zemindaree, but it was once a place of considerable importance; and a large weekly market is still held here. It is chiefly remarkable for the ruins of the fort, which must have been a place of considerable strength. Its remains are still visible along the north-east base of a detached oblong rocky hill, about four miles in circuit, near the village. The spurs of the hill, which is very steep, and composed entirely of large boulders, were connected by walls of rude and massive masonry, inside of which tanks were dug; and there are traces of a deep fosse beyond the walls. There are no remains of build-

Dongurgurh.

RAEPOR.

ings on the hill, nor can any vestiges of military works on any of its other faces be traced; nor were any defences necessary, as the hill is in most parts all but inaccessible. It must, however, if held for any time, have required a very large garrison; and it is hard to see in the absence of any buildings for storing grain how the necessary garrison could have been fed during a long siege.

Droog.

Droog is situated on the Great Eastern Road, twenty-four miles to the west of Raepore, and is the head-quarters of a Tehselee (sub-collectorate) of the same name. The fort, now in a dismantled condition, is known to be of great antiquity, dating previous to A. D. 750. (See *Rajim*). The Mahrattas made the fort of Droog their base of operations in A. D. 1740-41, when they over-ran the Chutteesgurh country. Here, besides occupying the fort, they formed an entrenched camp on the high ground on which the town stands, and from which a clear view of the surrounding country is obtainable, and thus rendering a surprise next to impossible. Droog now consists of about 500 houses and 2,200 inhabitants. The cloths manufactured here are celebrated throughout the district for their excellence. The public buildings consist of a tehselee, a police station-house, and a town school. There are also a post office and a dak bungalow.

Ferungesh-war.

This zemindaree is situated thirty miles to the south of Raepore. It is said to have been granted in A. D. 1579 to an ancestor of the present family. It consists of 80 villages, and contains some valuable forests. The Government demand is Rs. 277; the Zemindar is by caste a Raj Gond.

Gcoonderdehee.

This zemindaree consists of 52 villages, and covers an area of about eighty or ninety square miles, and pays to Government Rs. 4,290 per annum. It lies in the northern portion of the Balode pergannah, is surrounded on all sides by khalsa villages. It contains no jungle, and is generally well cultivated, the population and crops being similar to those in the cultivated portion of the district. The estate has been in the possession of the present Zemindar for 300 years. He is by caste a Raj Kooar.

Gundye.

A zemindaree consisting of 85 villages, and lying at the foot of the Salee Tekree hills. It is about fifty-six miles to the north-west of Raepore. The zemindaree formerly was much larger, but in A. D. 1828, by the sanction of the Rajah of Nagpore, the estate was divided into three parts, and given to the three sons of the former holder. The present incumbent, by caste a Gond, pays Rs. 948 to Government.

Kankir.

This is an extensive Feudatory estate, lying to the south of the district. The estate is almost all covered with jungle, and produces large quantities of lac, timber and thatching grass. There is said to be a good deal of teak in the country. It is very hilly and much intersected with nullahs. The Mahanuddy flows through the eastern portion of the estate. It contains 431 villages, of which 231 are said to be cultivated.

Tullaree.

A village situated in the centre of a telooka of the same name. It has 50 houses, and about 130 inhabitants, who are chiefly Gonds. It has

four very ancient temples, which it is said were built by the *Hemarpantee*, or giants of former ages ; they are small, but of peculiar construction, and are, I should say, of Jain origin. The stones with which they are built are uncemented, but their disposition is so accurately arranged, that the structures have withstood the wear of ages. The village has also three tanks, one about 300 yards square; the others small. Khullaree has an annual religious fair at the *Chytr poonao*, or about the end of March, at which about 3,000 persons attend. No merchants or traders attend, as the country about is poor, and offers no inducement. The fair is held for the worship of *Khullaree Devee*, to whom is dedicated a small chubootra at the top of the adjacent hill. The hill is of considerable height, and the extreme summit is crowned by huge granite boulders, which render access to the very top a work of toil; but one is repaid for the trouble by the extensive view of the surrounding country. It is at the base of these boulders, or on the first plateau, that the fair is held. There is a deep hole in the rock resembling an artificial cistern which is said to contain a spring, though the appearance of the water is much against this; still, as the wants of all the visitors of the *Mela* are said to be supplied from it, such may be the case. The devotees take with them a goat or a cocoanut, and offer it, after which they return home. The fair lasts only one day. The poojaree is a Rajpoot, called Tukhut, and he enjoys a rent-free village for his vocation. Khullaree was the seat of a Kumaishdar, or revenue manager, in the Mahratta times.

The talooka of which this is the principal village comprises 132 villages, and has an area of about 378 miles. On its west and north it is open, and to the east and south it is skirted by very high hills ranging from 600 to 800 feet high. It is intersected from north to south by ranges of low hills and belts of jungle. Its inhabitants are principally Gonds, with an admixture of Binjwars, Kullars, and Saoras. A small affluent of the Mahanuddy, the Korar, takes its rise in this talooka; it is almost dry during the hot months; its course is no more than eighteen miles long. Tradition states that the five Pandoos—Dhurum, Arjoon, Bheem, Nukool, and Sahdeo,—occupied Khullaree in former times; and a hill called "Kana" and "Mookkah," or the blind and dumb, situated about six miles from the village of Khullaree to the east, it is said, is a petrification of two of them. This hill can be seen from a great distance.

Khyragurh is a town situated at the junction of the Aum and Peepuria rivers; forty-five miles west by north from Raepore. It is the capital of the most important of the Chutteesgurh feudatories. The territory comprises 585 villages. It consists of four pergunnahs divided into eight talookas, and the estate is intersected by these zemindaries. To the south the pergunnahs of Khyragurh and Dongurgurh form a compact territory encircling the Pandadah pergannah of the Nandgaon zemindaree. This country is generally exceedingly well cultivated. About twenty miles to the north-west of this tract, and at the base of the Salee Tekree hills, is the small pergannah of Kolwar, the first possession held by the Khyragurh family. This pergannah is all more or less covered over with jungle. This pergannah is bounded by the Gundai, Burbusore and Silhutee zemindaries. About sixteen miles to the north-east of this pergannah lies

RAEPORE.

Khyragurh.

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the whole work, its numerous tanks and wells, excavated at so unusual an elevation, and the massive debris of its buildings,—attest the lavish outlay incurred in its completion, and the importance which was attached to it as a royal stronghold. In fact there is scarcely a marked vicissitude in the history of the Mundla dynasty, the crowning scene of which did not occur in Chowragurh. The first great blow to their power, was the invasion by Asuf Khan, one of the imperial Viceroys in 1564 A.D. He defeated and killed Durghaotee, the still famous Rajpoot princess, widow of the Gond Rajpoot Rajah, Dulput Sah, and took by storm Chowragurh, and with it, is said, the enormous booty of one hundred jars of gold coin, and 1,000 elephants. It was also besieged and taken by the Bhonslah Mahrattas in 1799, and during the war in 1818 it was held by a Nagpore garrison, but was evacuated on the approach of troops under General Watson and Colonel Macmorine. It was ceded to the British Government by the treaty of Nagpore. At the close of 1818, it was besieged by Chon Sah, Gond, who was driven back. It stands twenty miles south-west from Nursingpore, and the plateau enclosed is eight hundred feet above the level of the Nerbudda valley. There are three approaches to it: one from the little village of Chogar to the east; another by a road which winds at the foot of the northern face of the fort known as the artillery road, and joins the first road near the fort gate; and the third from the south by the hills, on a level with the fort. The north face of the fort is scarped for several hundred feet, as also are the faces to the east and west. It is capable of holding a large body of men. Water is to be found all the year round inside, for numerous tanks enclosed by stone walls have been constructed to catch the rain-fall, and receive the drainage of the two hills enclosed, which are divided by a dip of about one hundred yards. The Bondelahs besieged this fort for many years, but did not succeed in taking it. A place is shown to the south of the fort called "Bondela Koto" commemorating the event. On the enclosed hill to the west are to be seen many ruins of the palaces of the old Gond Rajahs, and in many places the colours painted on the walls are still very fresh. On the hill to the east are to be found the remains of buildings erected by the Nagpore Government for infantry, cavalry, and artillery. The exterior walls of the fort are still good in many places, but all the interior buildings are in ruins, and the place is very seldom visited. To the south there is a small fortified hill to protect that part of the fort from assault, it being its weakest point.

A P P E N D I X A.

Nerbudda
Coal and Iron
Company's Li-
cense showing
locality and
area.

"All that tract of land situated in the Central Provinces of India, and abutted and bounded on the north by the Nerbudda river, on the east by a line drawn due north and south from the point of exit of the Hurd river from the Gondwana hills to the Nerbudda river; on the south by a line drawn due east and west, so as to intersect a due north and south line drawn through the town of Mopani at a point two miles south of the escarpment of the said Gondwana hills; and on the west by a line drawn due north and south from the point of exit from the said hills of the Sita Riva river to the Nerbudda river, and also all that other tract of land in the district aforesaid, abutted and bounded on the

NURSING-
PORE.

north by the foot of the Vindhya hills, north of Tendookhera ; on the east by a line drawn due north and south through a point two miles due east of the town of Tendookhera and extending from the foot of the said hills to the Nerbudda river, on the south by the Nerbudda river and on the west by a line drawn due north and south through a point four miles due west of the said town of Tendookhera and extending from the foot of the said hills to the Nerbudda river." * * * *

Tendookhera to Gadurwara Railway Station ... 35 miles
 Mohpanee to do. do. ... 11 "

RAEPORE.

RAEPORE.

The district of Raepore forms the south-western portion of the Chutteesgurh Division of the Central Provinces. It is situated between $19^{\circ} 50'$ and $21^{\circ} 45'$ of north latitude, and between $80^{\circ} 30'$ and $82^{\circ} 40'$ of east longitude. The extreme length of the district from north to south is one hundred and thirty miles, and the extreme breadth about one hundred and fifty ; and the total area is estimated at fifteen thousand square miles. It is bounded on the north by the Belaspore district ; on the east by Sumbulpore ; on the south by Bustar ; and on the west by Chanda and Bhundara. Except to the north, the Raepore district is entirely girdled by continuous ranges of hills. On these hills, and encircling the Government lands, lie the estates of the following Feudatories and Zemindars :—

1. Kondka or	Feudatories.	7. Silhutee,	Zemindars.
Choeo Kuzhan,		8. Thakoortolah,	
2. Khyragurh,		9. Nurra,	
3. Nandgaon,		10. Deeree,	
4. Kankeir,	Zemindars.	11. Puddumpore,	
1. Burbuspore,		12. Lohara,	
2. Kogi,		13. Frungeshwur,	
3. Kourer,		14. Soormar,	
4. Gundai,		15. Gondurdehi,	
5. Parapore,		16. Bindra Nawagurh,	
6. Sonagpore		17. Kurriar,	

Raepore.

The territories of the Feudatories are extensive, and contain a large proportion of the best soil; none of the Zemindarees are of great importance, they are thinly populated, and in general yield very small rentals. (They are each described in their proper places). For administrative purposes, Raepore is divided into four Tehseeles or Sub-collectorates, viz. Droog on the west, Simga on the north, Dhumterry on the south, and Raepore in the centre, and on the east. (The physical features of this district will be found described under Chutteesgurh.)

Rivers.

The Mahanuddy rises in the extreme south-east corner of the district at Sehawa Khas, and for the first part of its course flows north-west through jungly country, for a distance of sixty miles, but after reaching Dhumterry its course is northerly through a fairly cultivated part of the district. It has a bed about half a mile in breadth opposite Rajim, about one hundred miles from its source. The principal tributaries of the Mahanuddy in this district are the Seonath and the Karoon. The Seonath rises in the Panabaras zemindaree of the Chanda district; at first it passes through a hilly tract of country till it reaches the territory of the Nandgaon Chief, and from thence flows through the richer parts of the Raepore district, entering Belaspore to the north of the town of Simga; it then turns to the east and forms the boundary between Belaspore and Raepore until it reaches the Turrenga Tahoot, which belongs to Belaspore; it again forms the boundary between Lawn and Belaspore, until it reaches Seoreenarrain. The Karoon rises in the territory of the Chief of Kankeir, and passing the town of Raepore joins the Seo not far from Simga. This river is navigable during the rains, and stores from Calcutta have been landed three miles west of Raepore by this stream. This, however, is practicable only in times of extraordinarily high floods, as the river, as a general rule, is shallow, with a rocky bottom. The rivers of this district will be found more fully described under "Mahanuddy."

Hills.

The hill ranges in this district have been described under Chutteesgurh. The only remarkable hill is the Dullee Pahar, in the Lohara zemindaree; it is connected by a somewhat lower range with the hills which separate Lohara from the Balode pergunnah. These hills which run nearly due south from Balode, turn to the south-west near Dullee, and thence turn nearly due west for about five or six miles beyond Dullee, and then turn again to the south and join the range running into Kankeir; the whole forming one continuous range, of which the Dullee hill and those immediately adjoining it are the highest summits. The Dullee hill reaches a height of about 2,000 feet.

Natural products.

The chief produce of Raepore is rice, wheat, toor, and gram; these crops are generally most luxuriant, and of excellent quality. Peas, masoor, castor-oil, linseed, sugarcane, and hemp in many, and the other two in almost all the villages of the district. There is a good deal of hemp grown in the Sehawa and Lohara districts. The Brinjars are the chief dealers in, and consumers of this article, which is grown in wild out-of-the-way places, such as are visited only by these wanderers. The castor-

oil of Raepore bears a high value in the market, but the linseed and sugarcane are somewhat inferior in quality, though the crop is generally abundant. For some years past a considerable quantity of cotton has been grown, but a large portion of the crop is retained for home consumption; the quality of the cotton is inferior, and the out-turn small, chiefly owing to the want of care in its cultivation.

In this district buffaloes are much used in farming operations, especially in the low-lying rice lands, where their powerful bodies, and expansive hoofs make them peculiarly suited to this kind of cultivation. Buffaloes for this purpose are largely imported from Bundelcund, and the districts north of the Nerbudda.

There is a great variety of gums found in the jungles, and large quantities are exported;—the gums are also much used in food, and in the preparation of sweetmeats. Dyes, especially safflower and turmeric, and lac also, are common, and are largely exported.

The only mineral ore which is worked in the Raepore district is iron; it is found in many localities, especially in Lohara, about the Dullee hill, where it is smelted by Aguryas, who have migrated from Lanjee in Bhundara. The iron ore found there is peculiarly good, and contains a large quantity of metal. The manufacture of iron has once been extensively carried on near the village of Parsudda, eighteen miles to the south of Sakra on the right bank of the Jonk. The vein of iron extends into the Kourea zemindaree, in which there is a village named Chiroda, inhabited entirely by "Lohars," who carry on their calling; the ore there, however, is comparatively poor. This metal in Chutteesgurh seldom finds its way beyond the nearest market town. Iron is also not unfrequently extracted from laterite, which abounds in many parts of the district. The stone is broken into small pieces, two or three ounces in weight, and smelted with charcoal; the yield is not large, but the process is simple and inexpensive.

There are no manufactures of any importance, and skilled workmen are seldom to be met with. Kosa, or tussur silk, is produced and woven into cloths, which are much sought after as articles of apparel by both sexes. The pergunnah of Rajim produces the most and the best. The manufacture of the cloth is also carried on in the town of Lawn, and the weavers there are very skilful; and the prices of the fabrics are moderate. Coarse cloths are made in many of the towns and villages, but only for local sale; and this manufacture, it is believed, has decreased of late years, owing to the dearness of cotton.

The trade of the district is as yet not large. Cotton and grain are among the principal articles of export; the precious metals are the chief imports; hardware and groceries, cocoanuts, and sugar, are also imported to a considerable amount.

The principal export routes are those to Nagpore, of which there are four, one the main road through Raepore and Droog; the second about ten miles to the north, passing through the village of Anjora Boozorg; the third about sixteen miles to the north of the second, passing through Dhumda; the fourth route is for the produce of Sehawa, Dhumterry, Balode; and

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Forest products.

Minerals.

Manufactures

Trade.

Routes.

RAILWAYS

Lohara, via Chuzghur. Leaving Balode, this road goes through Lohara, Lanjaree, Kojee, Beysur, Gondeh, Bunjaree of the Nandgaon tract and Chuzghur in the Bhundara district. This route, although lying through a very wild and sparsely peopled country, is much used for the export of the produce of the southern portion of this district. The other routes are those to Jubbulpore, via the Chilpee ghat. It is by this route that the wheat of the great wheat-bearing pergannahs of Nowagurh and Deorbyjia finds an exit. There is also the route to Chanda through Balode, Pinjarce, and thence through the Panaharas zemindaree. A large quantity of agricultural produce is exported by this route. The import of English piece goods has been increasing, and will increase, now that Nagpore is linked with Bombay by the railway. Salt at present enters Raepore from the east, but Bombay salt will, in all probability, drive the eastern article out of the Raepore markets. The extent and value of the export and import trade according to the statistical returns of 1865-66 are as follows:—

ARTICLES.	EXPORTS.		IMPORTS.	
	Maunds.	Rupees.	Maunds.	Rupees.
Cotton .. .	21 686	3 25 244	133	1 915
Sugar .. .	6 908	65 367	32 090	78 821
Salt .. .	64	512	74 496	3 74 269
Grain .. .	249 341	6 79 228	268	687
Oilseeds .. .	30 631	95 336	80	330
Metals and hardware .. .	616	29 563	1 631	91 418
English piece goods .. .	3	360	178	33 237
Miscellaneous Europe goods .. .	..	..	408	18 881
Country cloth .. .	816	40 640	27	1 570
Silk and silk cocoons .. .	157	15 760	21	2 100
Horses, cattle, and sheep .. .	..	46 781	..	10 356
Cocoanuts .. .	16 995	1 65 839	19 272	1 74 771
Miscellaneous .. .	36 148	1 42 129	16 733	3 45 027
Total .. .	363 365	16 06 759	125 343	11 33 397

Fairs.

The principal fairs held in the district are at Koorra, Bungolee, Rajim, Dhumterry, and Gundai. The largest is the one at Rajim, where about 25,000 people annually collect, and sales are effected to the amount of 1½ lakhs of rupees. The articles usually sold are cattle, jewels, hardware, and English and native cloths.

Revenue.	RS.			
	Land revenue	..	..	..
	Miscellaneous	..	..	18,956
	Abkaree	..	..	14,300
	Customs	..	..	1,87,538
Principal towns.	Stamps	..	..	21,737

Raepore. Raepore is the only place worthy of being called a town in the district, to which it gives its name. It is situated in the midst of an open plain or plateau, at an elevation of about one thousand seven hundred and fifty feet above the sea; and is about one hundred and eighty miles due east of Nagpore; and on the road from that city to Calcutta, via Sumbulpore and Midnapore.

Of the early history of Raepore but little can be gathered ; it would appear to have been a place of little note, till about A. D. 850, when a branch of the Ruttunpore king's family came and established his court at Raepore. The site of the town in those days was considerably more to the south and west than it is at present, and extended to the banks of the river at Mahadeo ghat. Owing, however, to the lawless and wild state of the country, and the rapacious conduct of the rulers themselves, the town never rose to any note or opulence till within the last fifty years.

The Rajpoot rule was overthrown by the Mahrattas about A. D. 1745, and it is probable that the old fort was dismantled at the same time, and Ruttunpore again made the seat of Government. The Mahratta court was removed in A. D. 1788, and the country was governed by Soobahs sent from Nagpore to Ruttunpore till A. D. 1818. In that year the country was placed under British superintendence, and Colonel Agnew, the first Superintendent, finding Raepore a more suitable and healthy locality than Ruttunpore, removed to it ; and from that date a general feeling of security having sprung up, the city has steadily risen both in magnitude and wealth.

From old documents and inscriptions it would appear that the first rajah of Raepore was one Burum Deo, of the Hy Hy Bansee race.—(See Article *Chutteesgurh*.)

In A. D. 1460 Bhowmaysur Deo, who was then reigning at Raepore, assisted by his relative Shunkur Sing, the Rajah of Ruttunpore, built the fort, and it is said that the city at that time extended from the fort on the east, to the banks of the Karoon river to Mahadeo ghat on the west. This site is now almost all under cultivation, and clear of the present town. The only remains of the ancient city being a small village and temple at Mahadeo ghat, and the little suburb of Raepore, about half a mile from the town.

The last of the Rajpoot kings was Utnmuy Sing ; and when he had reigned twelve years he was deposed by the Mahrattas, and served for the remaining three years of his life under the rule of Bimbaji Bhonsla, the Mahratta ruler of Chutteesgurh, receiving as an appanage the pargannahs of Raepore, Rajim, and Patun, for which he paid Rs. 7,000 a year. At his death, A. D. 1753, his son Nowrath Sing happened to be absent on a pilgrimage, and the estates were confiscated. Nowrath Sing died in A. D. 1816, leaving two sons, Ruggoonath Sing and Pirthee Sing, who are still alive, and enjoy a Mokassa of five villages for their maintenance ; they live at Burgaon, a village near Raepore.

In A. D. 1818 Colonel Agnew was sent as Superintendent for the British Resident at Nagpore. He moved the head-quarters of the district from Ruttunpore to Raepore. He lived on the west side of the town in the building now used as a civil hospital. He entered into new estates and engagements with the various zemindars of the district on behalf of the British Government. From that time some degree of security for property, and confidence in the Government began to arise, and the town gradually increased. In A. D. 1830 Colonel Agnew laid out

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what is now the main street of the town. He encouraged the building of shops and houses on an approved plan, which has greatly added to the appearance of the town.

In A. D. 1830 the country was again made over to the Mahratta Government, and the British Superintendent withdrawn, and Soobahs from Nagpore governed in Raepore till A. D. 1854, when the district was finally annexed to the British territories.

In A. D. 1854, one civil officer, a military commandant, and a medical officer, marched up with the troops and took up a position on the east side of the town. They each built a house on the spot where they had respectively pitched their tents, and since then eight or ten other houses have sprung up around them. Since 1863, a church and a dak bungalow have been built, also a zillah cutcherry, central jail, tehsilee, serai, and market-place.

In the latter part of 1859 Captain Smith, who was then Deputy Commissioner, completed the main street through the town, commenced by Colonel Agnew; this street is now nearly two miles in length, and contains a good bazaar and many fine houses, some of them remarkable for the elaborate wood-carving of their pillars and balconies.

The town is surrounded by tanks and groves of trees, and has several ancient temples in it, and the remains of an old fort.

As before mentioned, the building of the fort is said to have been commenced by Rajah Bhownaysur Sing in A. D. 1460; a ghat in the Bhoora tank at the main gate of the fort was added by Rajah Tribhoun Sing of Ruttunpore some years after. In those days when fire-arms were not in use, the fort must have been a place of immense strength. The ramparts and bastions are built of stone and mud, and there were three large gates and one postern. The main gate near the Bhoora tank on the north-side was entire when the British took possession of the country in 1818. Immense masses of fine limestone and granite were used in the construction of the fort, while no signs of any old quarries exist in the neighbourhood. Nor can any stones of the same kind and magnitude be procured now without great difficulty. The fort appears to have been nearly a mile in circumference, and to have had five bastions with connecting curtains: it was protected on the east by the Bhoora tank; off the south and half round the west side by the Maharajee tank; while the old town lay on the north and east of the fort. When knocking down one of the old bastions, lately, the workmen came upon some old tombs, at least twenty feet below the surface, and carefully protected by stone walls. These tombs are probably above 400 years old, but there was no inscription to tell their history.

Tanks.

The Bhoora tank is the most ancient in the place, and is said to have been formed at the time of building the fort, nearly 500 years ago: it lies on the east face of the old fort, and was of considerable extent; it covered at least one square mile of country, but has lately

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been curtailed, and much improved by the Local Committee and a masonry bund constructed near the north-eastern corner of the fort. The accumulated silt of so many years had reduced this fine tank to the condition of a pestilential swamp in many parts, and it is confidently expected that the recent alterations, by making well defined limits, and preventing the spread of water over so large an extent of land, will tend to keep the water deeper, and prevent the accumulation of mud. On the east side of this tank public gardens have been laid out.

The Maharajee tank was originally a swamp on the south side of the old fort; the country falls steadily from the fort down to the southward for nearly half a mile. A bund was built about half a mile distance from the fort by one Maharaj Danee, about 100 years ago. This Maharaj Danee was the Sayer contractor in the time of the Bhonslaahs.

The construction of this bund changed the swamp into a fine tank, which was named the Maharajee, in honor of the maker. It is a large tank but not deep, and covers about half a square mile of ground, and is contiguous to the south end of the Bhoora tank. To the south of this tank, and close to the bund, is a temple to Ramchundra, built and endowed in A. D. 1775 by Bimbaji Bhonslah, Rajah of Raepore, who also granted a Mokassa village to the Poojaree.

Contiguous to the above is a temple to Mahadeo, built by one Juggunnath Sao, Mahajun ; it took nearly twenty years to build, and was completed by Deenanath Sao, the son of Jaggunnath, within the memory of many of the present inhabitants.

The Khoko tank is perhaps the most substantial in the place, and was built by one Codund Sing, Kumaishdar of Raepore, about 40 years ago. It is supposed to have cost about 30,000 rupees, and has stone bunds on three sides with steps down to the water. Near this tank is a temple to Mahadeo, built by Muksoodun Danee, the brother of Maharaj Danee, who constructed the Maharajee bund, and it is said to be about eighty years old. Into this tank are thrown the images of Gunputtee at the close of the festival of Gunnessh Chuttoortee.

The Amba tank is supposed to be about 200 years old, and was originally built by a Telee, whose name has been lost ; it had got much out of repair about twenty years ago, when it was thoroughly repaired and faced with massive stone terraces, and steps to the water on three sides. This work was done at a cost of Rs. 10,000 by one Soobaram, Mahajun, who is still living in Raepore. This tank lies to the north of the town at about a quarter of a mile distance, and supplies good drinking water to a large number of the inhabitants.

The Rajah tank lies to the west of the city, at about a mile distance ; it is currently reported to have been built in the days of Rajah Burriar Sing, 200 years ago ; one side only is faced with stone.

Tailee Banda was built by Deenanath, father of Sobaram, Mahajun, about 40 years ago ; one side is faced with stone. This tank holds deep water, and is much valued by the inhabitants ; it is not of any great

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Kunkalee tank is in the middle of the city, and was built of stone throughout, about 200 years ago, by Kirpal Geer, Mahunt, who also built a small temple to Mahadeo in the middle of the tank. The water of this tank has a fetid smell, and it is disagreeable to come near it, yet the people of the city esteem it highly, and use the water for washing purposes. The water is of a bright emerald green colour. On the bank of this small tank is an ancient temple to Kalika Devee, held in high veneration. This temple was in existence when the tank was constructed, and in fact gave the name to the tank itself. An annual festival is held here in the Dusserah.

Temples.

Ramchundra temple, one of the principal temples in the town, was built by Gujraj Sing, brother of the Codund Sing, who built the Khoko tank. It was built about 40 years ago, and boasts a large full-toned gong, which is struck every evening at the time for worship. This temple is held in much veneration, and is the daily resort of many of the principal inhabitants of the town. Adjoining it, with only a wall between, is a temple to Hunnooman and Ramchundra, built by Muksoodun Danee, the brother of Mahrat Danee, who built the Mahratjee tank; it is of more ancient date than the one just mentioned, being 80 or 100 years old.

To the south of the town and within its limits is also a temple to Juggubuath, but it is not of any great importance; it possesses the usual accompaniments of the car, &c., and has an annual festival.

About the year 1860 the Marwarees of the town subscribed and built a Jain temple in the heart of the town, dedicated to Parusnath; it is not of large dimensions. The temple at Mahadeo ghat has already been mentioned; it is one of the most ancient in the place. There is also a small temple on the north-west corner of the fort dedicated to Mahamaee Devee, which was built at the same time as the fort, and was afterwards repaired, and endowed by Rajah Tribhoun Sing.

Trade.

Raepore is now a place of considerable trade in grain, lac, cotton, and other produce; and is steadily rising in importance under the British rule. The extraordinary rise and progress of the town may be noted by the following information, obtained from some of the old inhabitants.

At the first accession of the British rule, in A. D. 1818, there were only ten or twelve small shop-keepers in the place. The town consisted of about 700 grass huts, with not one tiled or pucca building. Coin was not current,—every transaction being carried on in kind or with cowries. Grain sold for four or five khundies per rupee; lac and cotton were ten rupees a bojha. The ground now occupied by the Zillah Cutcherry was then covered with low jungle; tigers, and other wild beasts, were not unfrequently met with. The population was then computed at between 5,000 or 7,000 souls.

In A. D. 1830, when Colonel Agnew, the first British Agent, left the station, Raepore had more than doubled in size. As already stated, the main bazaar street had been opened out, and shops formed along both

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the Khummeria pargannah, a very fertile tract, all richly cultivated. When the family first settled in the district, they received from the Mundla Rajah the talookas of Kolwar and Seetagotta. Subsequently having rendered assistance to the Mundla Rajah, when the latter was at war with the Rajah of Dhumda, they received the Khyragurh pargannah. The Mahratta Rajah Bimbaji subsequently gave them Khumuris, and after they had in 1818, A.D. assisted in subduing the Dongurgurh Zemindar, who had joined in the rebellion raised by Appa Sahib, they received half of the Dongurgurh zemindaree, the other half being made over to the Nandgaon Zemindar. Khyragurh has the two principal passes through the Salee Tekree hills between Chutteesgurh and the Nagpore country; these leave the present line of the eastern road ten miles from Raepore, a few miles from Khyragurh diverge, the one passing by way of Pandadah, Sakar Tola, and Dheree Munglee, and the Bhundara district at Lanjee. This route which was much formerly, is now but little used; the chief route is by Ryam Peepree, and enters the Bhundara district by the town of Anandpur on the Baug river. A large portion of the Khyragurh territory is plains and contains some of the best parts of the Chutteesgurh, and its lands are rich and fertile. The tribute paid by the Gaon to the British Government amounts to nearly Rs. 35,000.

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A small zemindaree bordering on Nandgaon; it consists of 27 villages, in a fairly open country, and pays a revenue demand of Rs. 1,359. It is situated 70 miles to the south-west of Raepore. The Zemindar is a Mahomedan.

Koorta Ban-golee.

This village is situated to the north-west of Raepore, at a distance of fourteen miles. It comprises 238 houses, and 524 inhabitants. The soil here is exceedingly fertile. The inhabitants are chiefly Koonbees. It is renowned for its annual fair in the month of January, which lasts for about fifteen days. About 20,000 persons visit this fair, some for purchases, and others for devotion, at the tomb of one Ghassee Doss, formerly a man of renown. The goods sold comprise English and Native cloths, metal pots, spices, cocoanuts, toys, &c. Livestock, cattle, ponies, sheep, &c, are brought and sold in large numbers. This portion of the transactions is confined to the people of the district. The English cloths and goods are brought by Raepore merchants, and the metal pots are of Mirzapore and Orissa manufacture. In the centre of the village there is a chubootra under a tree, or rather built round the tree, which is the tomb of Ghassee Doss, a saint among the Kubeer Puntees. An agent from Kuwurdha, the head-quarters of the Kubeer Puntees, resides near it, and presides during the *Mela*. The offerings made consist of sugar, cocoanuts, sweetmeats, and money; the whole of which is taken by the Poojaree. The devotees generally belong to the Ganda, Punka (both weavers), Koormee, Telee, and Kular castes.

Kouree.

Kouree is a zemindaree, consisting of 152 villages, but most of them are mere hamlets, and many exist only in name. The lands are wild and jungly. It is situated about eighty miles to the east of Raepore, on the Sumbulpore road. The revenue demand is Rs. 106. The Zemindar is a Gond by caste.

This zemindaree is said to have been formed many generations ago out of the Patna State, being given as a dowry by the Patna Chief to his daughter. It is bounded on the north and south by Chutteesgurh proper; on the east by Borasambur and Patna; and on the west by Bindra Nowgurh. It is fifty-three miles from north to south, and thirty-two from east to west. Nearly half of the area is under cultivation. The revenue demand is Rs. 1,600 : the Chief is a Chowhan by caste.

Raepore.
Kurriar.

This zemindaree lies to the south-west of the district, between the Balod and Sinjaree pergannahs. It is generally hilly and covered with jungle ; to the south the hills reach a considerable height, diminishing as they approach the north, till they sink into the plain near the northern boundary. It contains 132 villages, and covers an area of 1,800 square miles, and the Zemindar pays to Government annually Rs. 572. There is little cultivated land in the zemindaree ; and the population is composed of Gonds, Kullars, and Hulbas. The country is well bounded respectively on the east and west by the rivers Narmada and Khurkura, while numerous nullahs descend from the hills into the valleys. The principal hill in the zemindaree is the Dhar ; it is from 1,800 to 2,000 feet high, and was formerly covered with jungle, as was also a large part of the zemindaree ; but there are now very few valuable trees left in any part of the estate. The jungles still contain large quantities of Koosum, Mohwa, Beejasal, and other timber trees similar to those in the Balode jungles ; and lac, wax, and honey are yearly produced in very large quantities. Hemp and cotton are also exported in small quantities by Brinjarras who buy up the supply. There is also a great quantity of iron smelted in this estate. The Zemindar is a Gond by caste ; and the estate was originally granted in A.D. 1538 in return for military service by one of the Ruttunpore Rajahs.

Lohara.

This is a zemindaree belonging to a member of the Kawurdah and Pandurree family, situated about 60 miles to the north-west of Raepore, and south of the Kawurdah zemindaree belonging to the Belaspore district. The greater part of the estate lies below the Salee Tekree hill, and the whole of this tract is exceedingly fertile, and well cultivated. The portion lying among the hills is almost all covered with jungle. It contains 84 villages, and pays a Tukoles of 1,495 rupees.

Lohara
Sohurpore

This pergannah lies to the east of Simgah ; it contains about 423 villages, and covers an area of about 800 square miles. Nothing is known of its history previous to the Mahratta rule. During the greater portion of time the Mahrattas governed the country, it was not farmed out ; but during the last eighteen years it has been let on lease for different periods to Jodh Roy, a Mahajun belonging to a family somewhat notorious in the district. It is watered by the Sheonath and Mahanuddy, and possesses a most fertile soil, but by far the greater portion is covered by scrub jungle containing but little valuable timber. The country to the west of the Mahanuddy is generally well cultivated, particularly that portion lying to the south of the pergannah. The un-cultivated portions bear rich crops of thatching grass, from whence the greater part of the cultivated villages of the district are supplied with that article. To the east of the Mahanuddy, with the exception of a

Lawn.

Raipore. portion to the north-east along the river, almost the whole country consists of low hills covered with bamboos and thatch. While along the extreme eastern boundary, there are fine plains. The principal crop is rice, which is produced in very large quantities, and it was from this pergunnah that almost the whole of the sum used in the district during the last year was furnished.

Muddunpore. *Muddunpore is a zemindaree situated to the north-east of the Nagpore pergunnah. It was conferred on the present holder, Gujraj S. S. during the period when the Nagpore Government was superintended by Officers in A. D. 1812. The Zemindaree consists of thirty-five villages, some portion of which is fairly cultivated but a large amount is waste land. The Zemindar is a Raj Gond, and pays to Government Rs. 25/-.

Nandgaon. Nandgaon is a town situated forty-two miles west of Raepore, on the Eastern road; and is the principal town and residence of the Zemindar who is one of the feudatories of the Central Provinces. The territory contains about 560 villages, in a fertile tract of country, a portion of which is under cultivation. The town contains 100 houses, and 1,000 to 1,200 inhabitants. There is no regular fortification in the town, but the Zemindar's residence stands in a space enclosed by a moat, and may formerly have been regularly fortified. The town is divided into four pergunnahs; viz., Nandgaon and Dongurgurh to the south; Pandalab about twenty miles to the north, at the foot of the Saljee Tekree hill, and separated from Nandgaon by the Khyragurh pergunnah and that portion of Dongurgurh belonging to the Khyragurh Chief. Mowgaon, about fifty miles to the north, a very fertile pergunnah, lying between the Dhumda and Deorbigia Khalsa pergunnahs to the south and east, and Khummurria belonging to Khyragurh to the north. The Chief is by caste a Byragee, or religious devotee, and celibacy being one of the observances of the sect, the succession has been maintained by adoption. The grantee was the family priest of the Rajah of Nagpore, and the date of the original grant is A. D. 1723; an addition was made to it in A. D. 1765, and again in A. D. 1818. The tribute paid annually to Government amounts to nearly Rs. 35,000.

Nurra. This zemindaree is situated in the south-east corner of Chutteesgurh and formerly formed part of the Gurjat State of Kurriar. It was separated about the year A. D. 1710 and given by the Kurriar Chief as his daughter's dowry to her husband Visnath Sing, the ancestor of the present Zemindar. It consists of thirteen miserably poor villages. The Government demand is Rs. 64. The Zemindar is by caste a Kowar. There are a police station-house and district post office at the village of Nurra.

Purpore. The greater part of the Purporee zemindaree lies to the west of the Dhumda pergunnah. Its area is rich and cultivated, and comprises thirty-five villages. The revenue demand is Rs. 1,740. The Zemindar is by caste a Gond.

* This Zemindaree belongs to the Belaspore district.

RAJORE
Rajim.

Rajim is a town situated on the right bank of the Mahanuddy, at the junction of the Pairee with that river, and about twenty-four miles to the south-east of Raepore. The town is celebrated for the temple of Raji Lochun, and for the annual pilgrimage and fair held in honor of that idol in April. The fair lasts for a month, and between 20,000 and 30,000 people usually collect. In the temple is the image of Ramchundra, four feet high, of black stone, in a standing posture, facing the west. It has four arms holding the four common Hindoo emblems—the shank (the conch), the chakr (the discus), gonda (the club), and padma (the lotus). Garuda (the bird and vehicle of Vishnoo), as usual, faces the god in a posture of devotion, and behind him on a separate terrace are images of Hunooman and Jugutpal,—the king who is said to have built the temple. The latter is in a sitting position. Between these two is a doorway, beautifully sculptured with the representation of the Nagas (serpent demi-gods) entwined together in endless folds. This doorway leads to two modern temples of Mahadeo, and a third behind them is dedicated to the wife of an oil-seller, respecting whom there is a popular story connected with the ancient image of Raji Lochun, which makes her contemporary with Jugutpal. In the same court of the great temple are shrines dedicated to Nursing, Wamun, Wuraha, Budrinath and Jukanath. There are two ancient inscriptions on the walls of the temple of Ramchundra; on one of these is the date 796 Sumbut, or A. D. 750. Both of these inscriptions relate to the origin of Jugutpal, and to his prowess in subduing many countries, and they give the names of the enemies conquered, or assailed by Jugutpal; mention also is made of a fort called Doorga, being obtained on his marriage. This is no doubt the fort of Droog, situated twenty-five miles to the west of Raepore, which according to local tradition Jugutpal became possessed of by marrying the daughter of the Rajah of Droog. On a small rocky island at the junction of the Pairee and Mahanuddy, is a temple of Mahadeo called Kooleshwur, said to have been built by the Ranees of Jugutpal; there is an inscription on the wall, but it is now entirely illegible.

Rajim is a pretty little town containing 700 houses, with between 3,000 and 4,000 inhabitants. It has a town school, a district post office, and a police station. There are agencies here for the collection and export of lac, of which 3,000 to 4,000 bullock loads are annually sent to the Mirzapore and Jubbulpore markets.

Behaw

This pergunnah, lying to the south of Dhumerry, contains 288 villages, of which 270 are said to be uninhabited; it covers an area of about 550 square miles. The pergunnah has this year come under the direct management of the district authorities. Recent investigation has proved that there is but little valuable teak in the pergunnah, but there are very fine Sal forests. The inhabitants are chiefly Gonds, who, for the most part, live by collecting jungle produce, and practise only dhya cultivation. Lac, wax, thatching grass, and timber are the principal productions of the pergunnah, lac being produced in very large quantities.

**RAEPORE.
Suhetee.**

This zemindaree consists of twenty villages; it is situated about sixty miles to the north-west of Raepore, and formerly formed part of the zemindaree of Gundiaie (see under *Gundiaie*). The present incumbent is a Gond: he pays annually to Government Rs. 700.

Simgah.

Simgah is a town situated on the Seo river, twenty-eight miles to the north of Raepore and on the road to Belaspore; it is the head-quarters of a Tehseelie (sub-collectorate); it contains 450 houses, and about 1,000 inhabitants. There is a town school here, and also a police post, and a post office.

Sirpore.

This pergannah lies to the south of Lawn, and but little is known of it. The western portion of the pergannah is exceedingly fertile and well cultivated. That to the east is hilly and covered with bamboo and grass jungle. It contains eighty-one villages, of which about forty are inhabited, and the area is about 150 square miles. It is watered by the Mahanuddy.

Soormar.

Soormar is a wild and jungle tract, situated to the north of the Nurra zemindaree on the west bank of the Jonk river, in a south-easterly direction from Raepore. It was bestowed on one Goongy Doongy, an ancestor of the present incumbent, by the Rajah of Raepore, about the year A. D. 1710, for services rendered in quelling a rebellion raised by a former holder of tife talooka. It consists of eighty-four poor hamlets, the present revenue demand is Rs. 213. The Zemindar is a Gond.

Thakoortola.

This zemindaree lies to the north-west of the Raepore district, on the borders of that of Bhundara. It originally had only twenty-four villages, but now contains seventy-seven; twelve of the villages above the ghats having been assigned to this zemindaree from that of Salee Tekree, at the time when the entire charge of the ghats was made over to Thakoortola. The zemindaree now extends up to the Bunjar river, a tributary of the Nerbudda. Below the ghats the country is hilly, but above them, it is flat and well watered. There are fine forests of Beejasal, Hurdoo, Ayn, and Dhowra; and a good portion of the country is said to be well cultivated, bearing crops of cotton, kodoo, and rice. The population below the ghats are chiefly Telees and Kullars; while above the ghats the people are almost all Gonds. The Zemindar is a Gond, and pays Rs. 381 per annum to Government.

